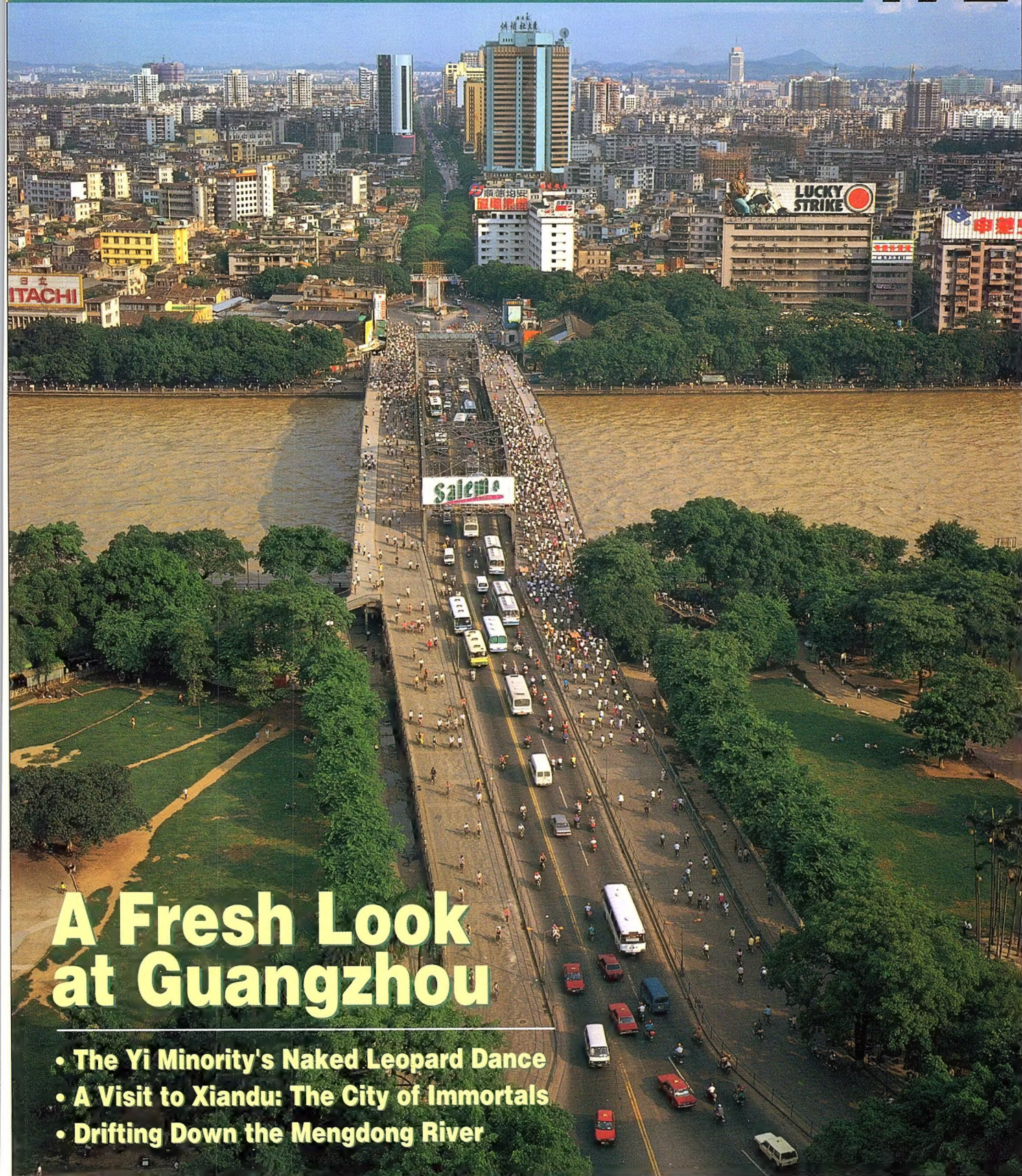


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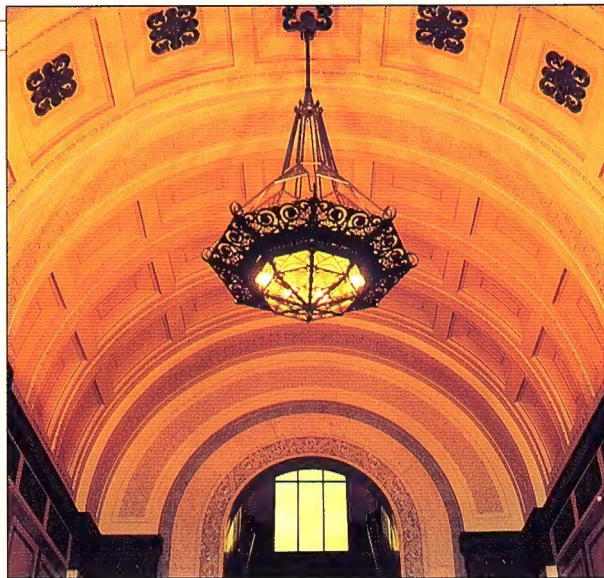
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A Fresh Look at Guangzhou

- The Yi Minority's Naked Leopard Dance
- A Visit to Xiandu: The City of Immortals
- Drifting Down the Mengdong River



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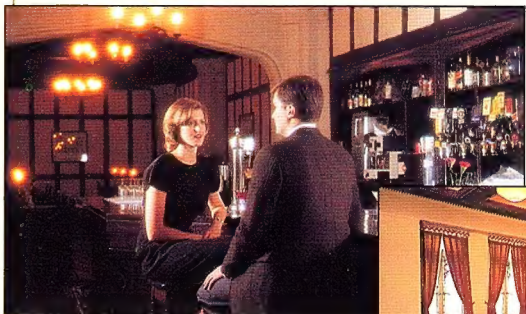
The North and South buildings have a total of 420 rooms and suites, including the famous Suites of Nine Nations: China, England, USA, France, Japan, Italy, Germany, India and Spain. All the rooms are equipped with 24 hours satellite television (CNN, BBC and NHK), in-house video and private bath.



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JAZZ
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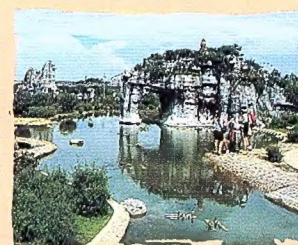
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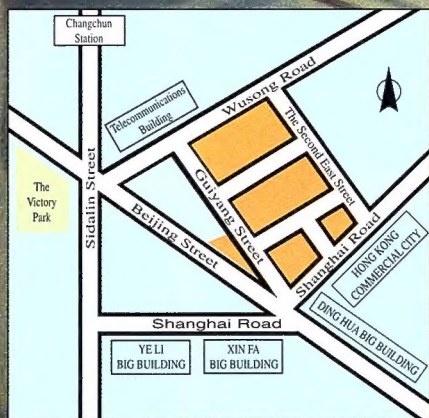


GUIYANG

APARTMENT
BUILDING

FINANCIAL
BUILDING

FOOD
STREET



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Guiyang Street is the site of the oldest and busiest commercial district in Changchun, the capital of Jilin Province. It boasts nearly 100 enterprises, 1,000 stands and stalls, and tens of thousands of small vendors. The Jilin International Co. Ltd. for the United Placement Industry made a huge investment in April this year to rebuild this flourishing old district, for the economic well-being of Changchun City.

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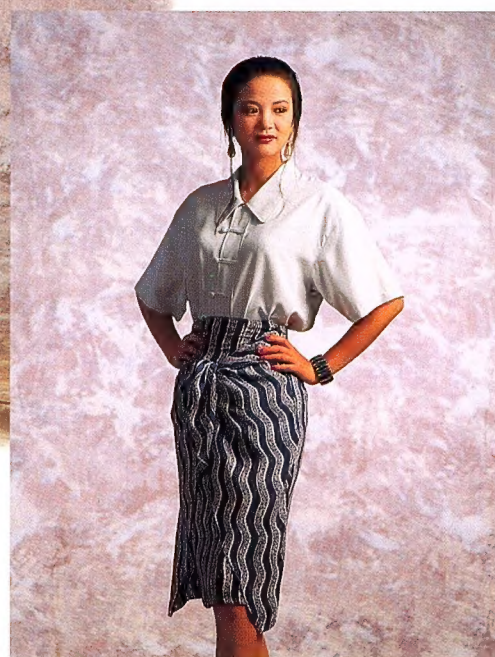
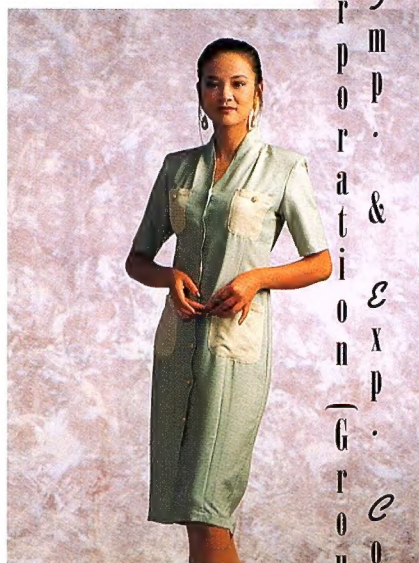
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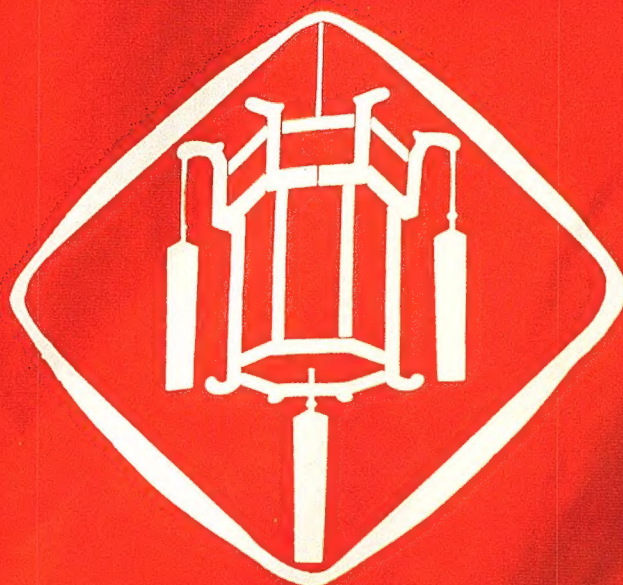
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—EDITORIAL—

A Fresh Look at Guangzhou

Guangzhou is one of the oldest cities in China, the capital of Guangdong Province, and for over a thousand years one of the main gateways to the country. As early as the second century A.D., traders from India and the Roman Empire appeared in the province, and the region as a whole became much more outward-looking than much of China.

Today, this is still the case. Guangdong, and Guangzhou in particular, is becoming very modern and cosmopolitan. Bordering both Hong Kong and Macau, new styles, fashions and ideas are being adopted and blended with the ancient culture. New roads, skyscrapers, shopping malls, hotels, restaurants and cinemas are springing up everywhere. In this issue, we look at the newly-emerging face of Guangzhou, and the up-to-date enthusiasms of the people who live there.

Long famous for its cuisine, we look at the dining possibilities in Guangzhou, from traditional Chinese fare to contemporary international restaurants. We also look at the night life, from karaoke to cinemas, shopping, working-out or just relaxing on the banks of the Pearl River.

One form of entertainment new to Guangzhou is horse racing. Our writers and photographers spent some time at the new race-track recording the enthusiasm with which the people of Guangzhou have embraced this new pastime.

Also in this issue, we turn our attention from the growing modernity of Guangzhou to the ancient rituals of the Yi people, and the fascinating Naked Leopard Dance. We go rafting on the lovely (although sometimes hair-raising!) Mengdong River, and we travel to the ethereal Xiandu, "City of the Immortals", rich in myth and legend and imbued with an other-worldly aura. From the ancient to the modern, these are just some of the many faces of China.

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Front Cover: The busy Haizhu Bridge spanning the Pearl River, downtown Guangzhou (by Chan Yat Nin)

GUANGZHOU SPECIAL FEATURES



Taking a New Look at Guangzhou 10

Article by Chan Yat Nin

Guangzhou has been the southern gateway to China for 2,800 years. Today, the ancient face of the city is rapidly becoming more modern. We look at the new developments taking place in this vibrant city.



Eat, Drink and Be Merry: Entertainment in Guangzhou 18

Article by Chan Yat Nin

Long famed for the quality of its cuisine, Guangzhou has an enormous amount to offer those looking for a good time. From restaurants to night-clubs, fitness centres to shopping centres, Guangzhou has them all.

LOCAL CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

The Yi Minority's Naked Leopard Dance 56

Photos by Xu Jinyan

Article by Kang Enda

Every year, the Yi people of central Yunnan Province perform a ritual dance to drive away evil spirits. Unusually, they do it naked, painted as leopards.



Touring Guangzhou's Four Satellite Cities 28

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

The rapid development of the city of Guangzhou has meant sweeping changes for tourists in the region.

We look at the wide range of things to see and do in the four satellite cities surrounding Guangzhou.



Horse Racing Guangzhou's Newest Fad 36

Photos by Chan Yat Nin / Article by Bei Le

Opened only last year, the Guangzhou racetrack is proving to be extremely popular with the people of the city. Exciting, colourful and entertaining, we spent a day at the races.

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA



A Visit to Xiandu: The City of Immortals 48

Photos by Chu Xiaoping

Article by An Ge & Qian Ting

Ethereal and magical, Xiandu in southern Zhejiang Province was thought to be the home of the immortals. We travelled there and recorded the serene beauty of the area.

China

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Taking a New

Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, has been known by many names throughout its long history. The Chinese call it Yangcheng (Goat City) or Huacheng (Flower City), while for decades it was known to foreigners as Canton. It has always been a city that managed to combine the ancient with the modern, the East with the West. Even during the years when China was tightly closed to the outside world, Guangzhou never really closed its doors.

However, the rapid pace of change in Guangzhou over the past 10 years has surprised just about everyone. Even residents who have lived there for generations have to look twice if they have been away from the city for a couple of years.

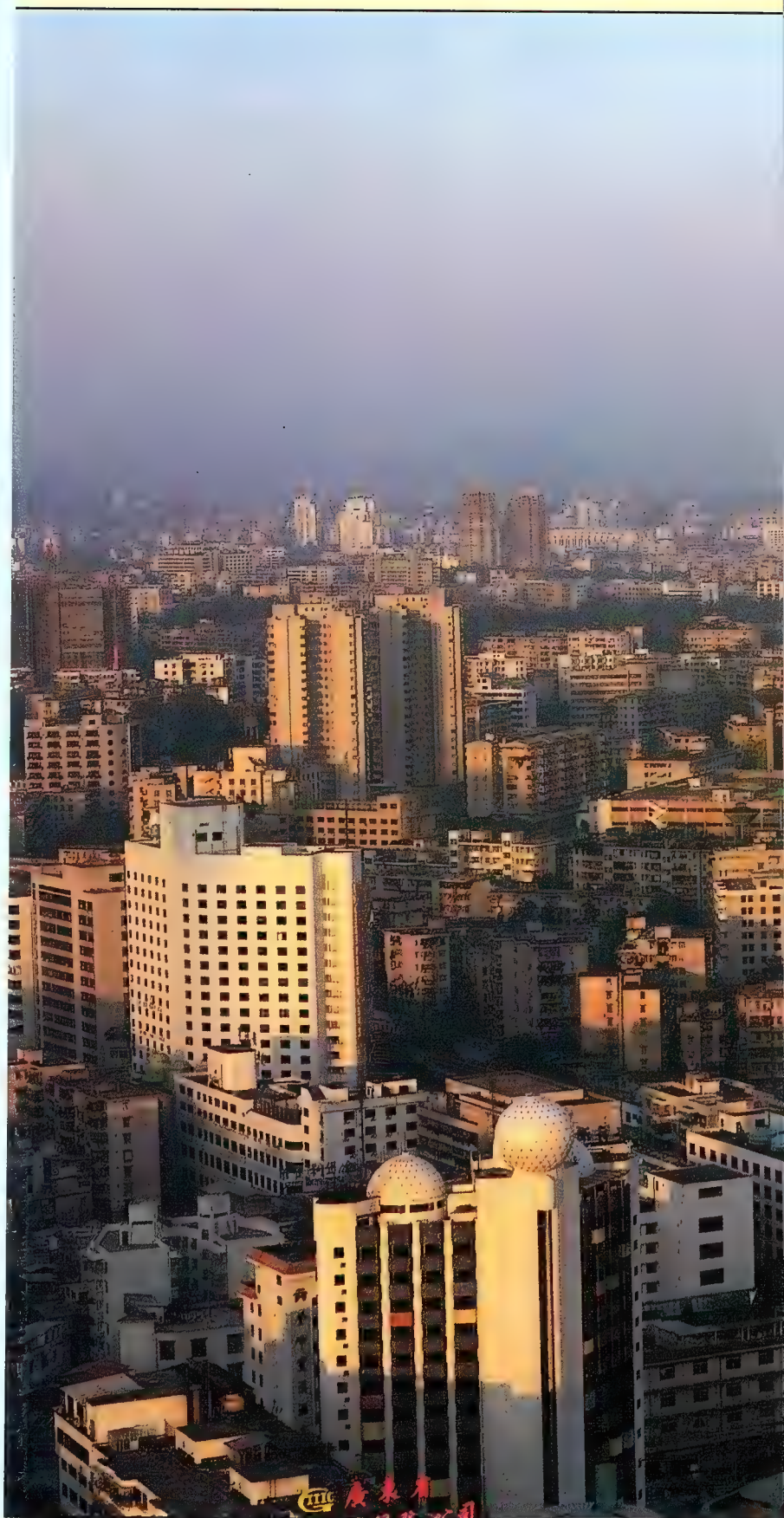
Ten years ago, the city of Guangzhou was fairly small. Now, however, it has expanded to the foot of Baiyun Hill in the north, and the town of Shahe in the northeast has been swallowed up by the city. Guangzhou's eastern border now reaches Tianhe, where the large Tianhe Sports Centre and a new city have been built. Tangcun Village, which was once regarded as remote, is now a busy racecourse.

In the 1960s, the 27-storey Guangzhou Hotel was the tallest building in China, but by the 1970s, the Bai Yun Hotel's 31 storeys broke the record. In recent years, so many skyscrapers have been constructed that the "old" days when 27 storeys seemed extraordinary are long forgotten. All these new buildings are symbols of this modern city. All the old shops, lanes and streets are now being renovated, thereby changing the face of Guangzhou for ever.

The roads are broader, the elevated roads throw you high into the sky, then drop you down suddenly, and the original roads and streets are unrecognizable.

Boats still shuttle back and forth on the Pearl River, although the city's famous "twin bridges" have now multiplied to accommodate the burgeoning population. The cross-river tunnel, the underground railway (now under construction) and underground shopping centres are yet more changes to this ancient city, giving it a new look and a new feel.

Translated by Xu Mingqiang



Top left: It is said that during the years of Emperor Yiwang of the Zhou Dynasty (c. 11 century-771 B.C.), five celestials riding five goats which had ears of rice in their mouths descended upon Guangzhou. They gave the rice to the local people and said that they would never suffer from famine. The celestials disappeared immediately but

Look at Guangzhou

ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN



the five goats turned into stones, and thus the city got its name of Yangcheng (Goat City). The stone statue of the Five Goats on Yuexiu Hill is the symbol of Guangzhou (by Chan Yat Nin).

Above: The Huanshi Road in Guangzhou has been crossed over and overlaid by other roads so many times it is barely recognizable (by Chan Yat Nin).



Dongfeng West Road has become the "Street of Finance" where many banks and financial organizations congregate (by Chan Yat Nin).



It is often said that whatever is fashionable in Hong Kong today will appear in Guangzhou tomorrow. For example, there is a Central Plaza in Hong Kong, and now there is a Central Plaza in Guangzhou as well. (by Peng Zhen Ge).



Era City on the North Renmin Road is one of the city's newly built modern buildings. This architecture combines the modern with the ancient, East with West — a trademark of Guangzhou (by Chan Yat Nin).

新廈林立

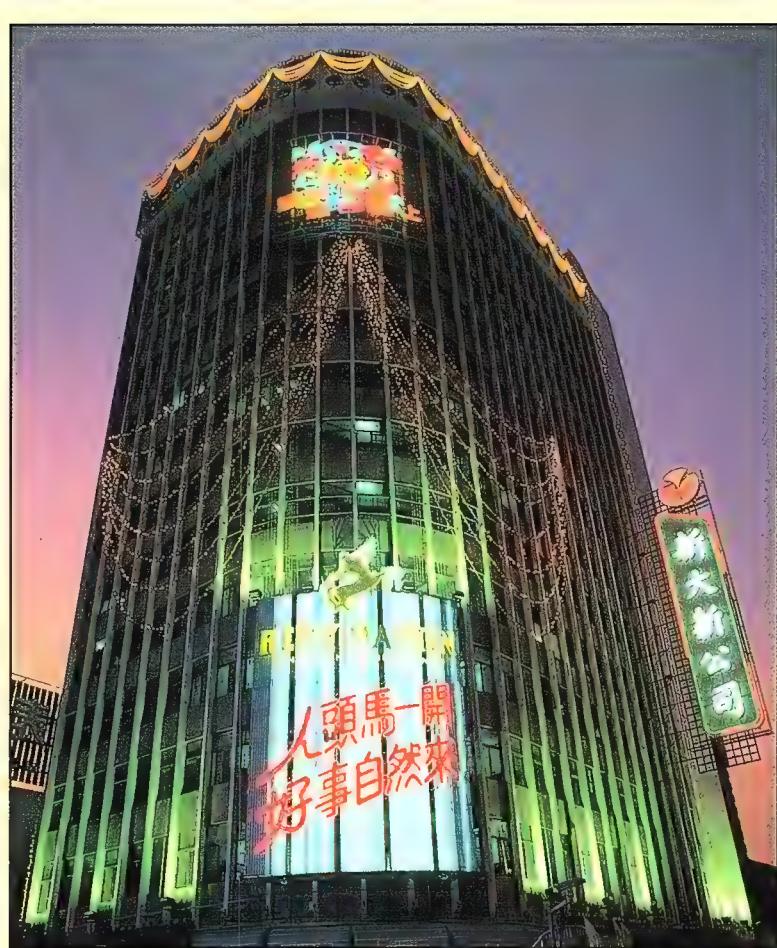
幾乎可以說，
香港時興甚麼，
廣州就會有甚麼相應
的名堂。



Standing on the hill by Luhu Lake and looking down at Guangzhou, one can see the "growth rings" of the city: in the mid-1950s, buildings were mostly five or six storeys. In the 1960s and 1970s, buildings were mostly eight storey block-houses. The Bai Yun Hotel was the highest at the time, and was known as the "31-storey building". In the 1980s, the Garden Hotel was representative of modern architecture, and Guangzhou for the first time had a roof-top



On the landing of a new Shopping Centre, the Guangdong International Trade Tower, a band plays for the enjoyment of the customers (by Yang Yankang).



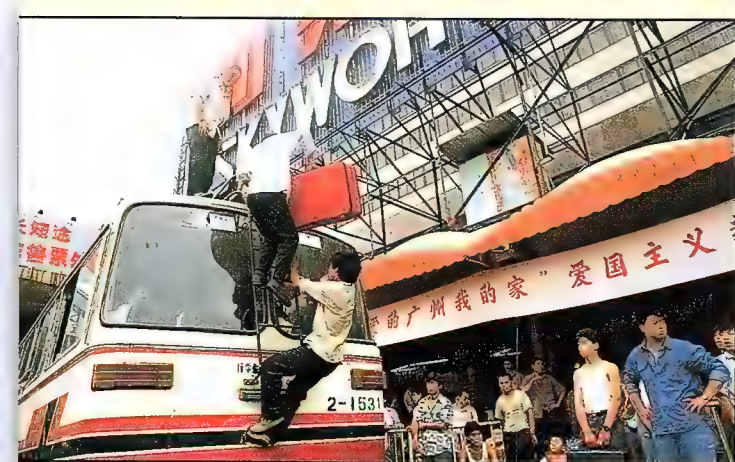
The New Daxin Department Store on Zhongshan No. 5 Road advertises a sales contest using bright neon lights (by Xie Guanghui).



rotating restaurant. In the 1990s, the World Trade Centre and the Guangdong International Trade Tower are the most modern buildings. The latter is 198 metres high with 63 storeys, and is now the highest building in China (by Zhao Kailiang).



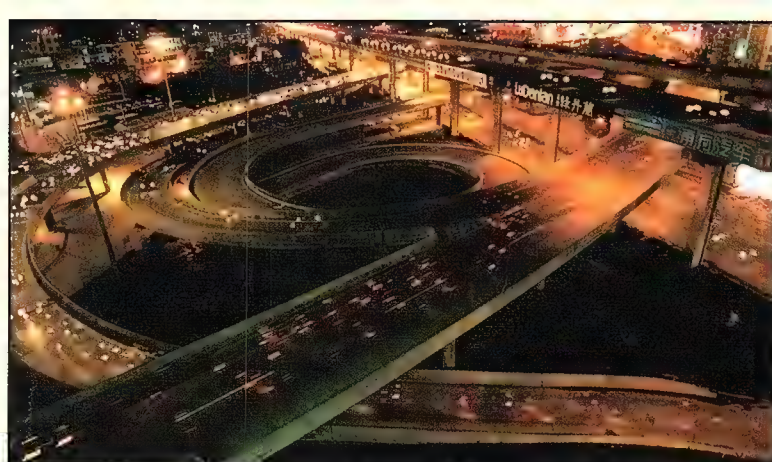
One of the best views to be had in Guangzhou is from the roof-top restaurant of the Guangzhou Hotel, where one can see the Pearl River Bridge and Jiangnan Road on the other side of the bridge. In the past, places two kilometres away from the Pearl River Bridge were regarded as suburbs, but now the city has grown so much it has eaten up the original suburbs (by Chan Yat Nin).



Labourers from all over the country swarm to the Pearl River Delta, with Guangzhou as the centre. Guangzhou Railway Station has become a way-station for labourers from other provinces (by Chan Yat Nin).

川流不息

「東西南北中，
發財到廣東」……
到處充滿動感，
也流溢着希望和不安。



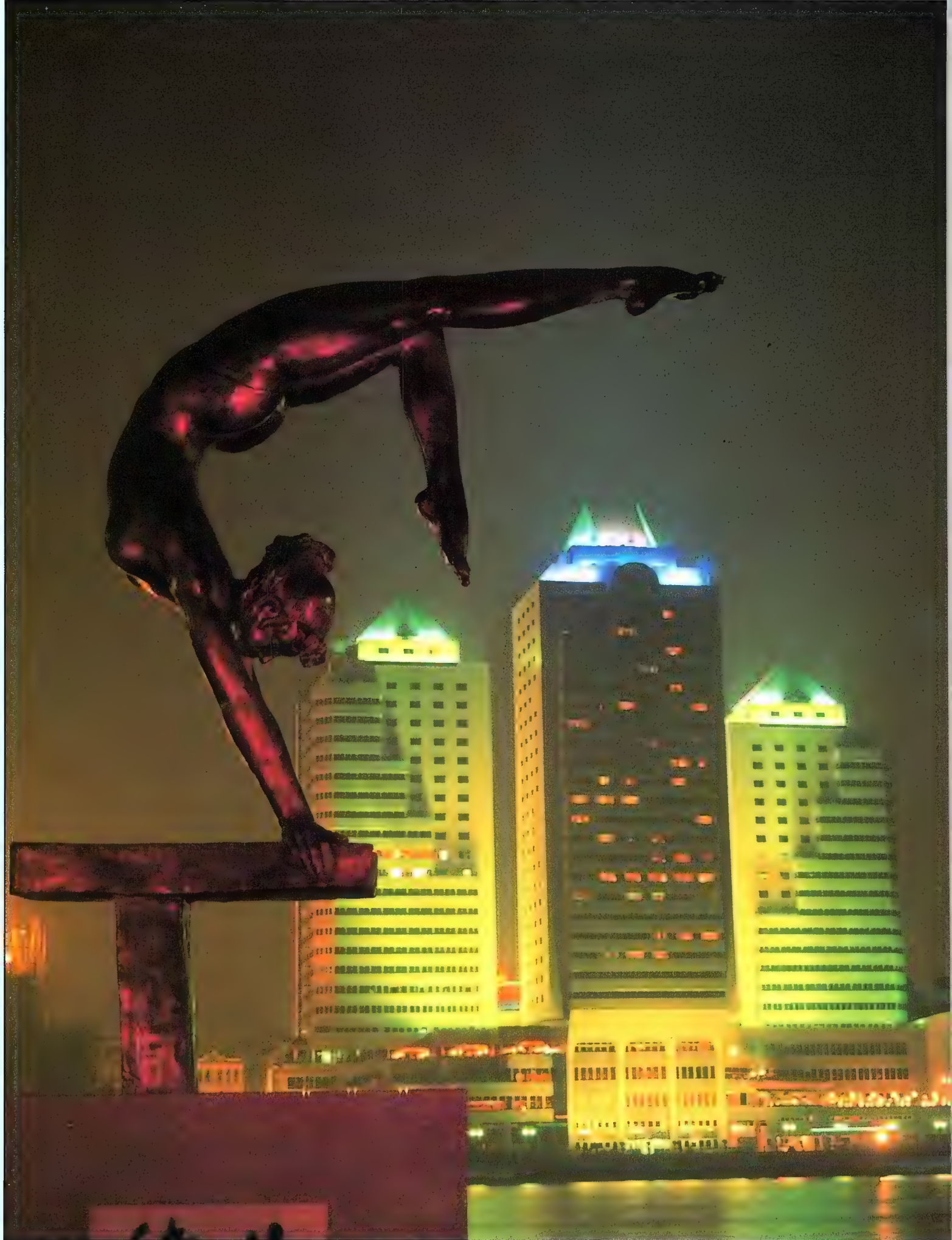
The elevated roads and flyovers have greatly changed the face of Guangzhou (by Lin Xing).



The number of the city's private automobiles ranks first in the country (by Xie Guanghui).



The Pearl River divides Guangzhou into two parts, the northern and southern banks. Both banks are now lined with row upon row of high buildings that face each other across the river (by Li Qidong).



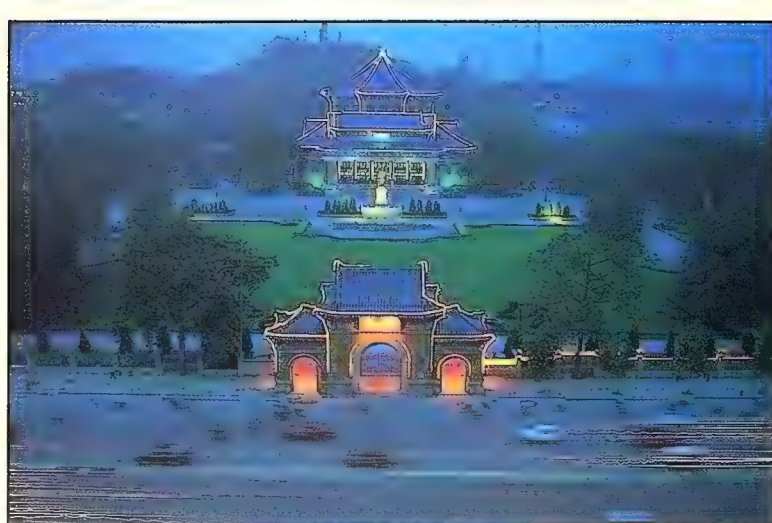
16 *On the southern bank of the Pearl River, a series of sculptures have been erected recently, and on the eastern bank north of the river is the new city of Jiangwan (by Lin Xing).*



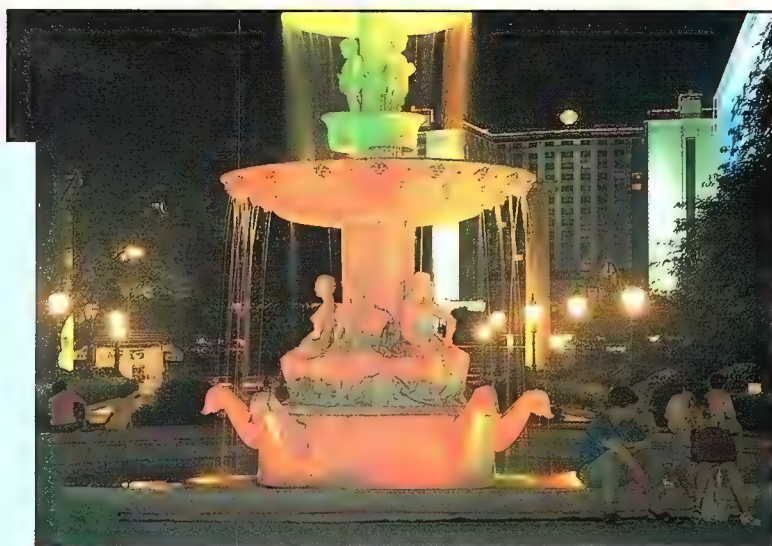
The long embankments of the Pearl River used to be ideal places for people in Guangzhou to enjoy the cool of the night. People still have this tradition, but the environment has changed, with the colourful neon lights of advertisements along the river shining as brightly as daylight (by Lin Xing).

日新月異

河北河南，遙相呼應，
同在顯示着廣州日新月異
的面貌。



Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, built at the beginning of this century, is illuminated at night (by Lin Xing).



This stone fountain at the East Gate of Liuhua Park looks very modern, and is in harmony with the city's environment (by Xie Guanghui).

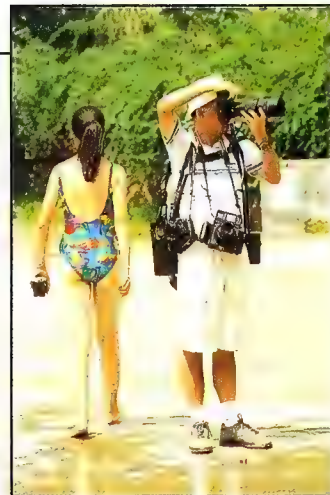


Around beautiful Liuhua Lake there is a section where a foreign businessman has built a luxury hotel. The architect chose the Imperial Palace as his blueprint for the hotel, which is now a major attraction (by Lin Xing).

Eat, Drink and Be Merry: Entertainment in Guangzhou



ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN



本來廣州稱為
「花城」，是因為花繁
葉茂，如今卻令人
不禁引伸出另一層意思
——花錢享樂之城。

The writer of this article hunts for the best scenes all over Guangzhou (1, by Li Qidong). ■ Xihu Road is also known as "Fashion Street" as it is a busy shopping district, especially at night (2, by Lin Xing).



"There are mountains of pearls and rhinoceros horns and seas of flowers and birds. Eating, singing and dancing are grander in scale than in the area around Nanjing in Jiangsu Province." This was a description of the city of Guangzhou during the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) dynasties, when it was already an international metropolis.

Today, hundreds of years later, there may not be "mountains of pearls and rhinoceros horns", but it would be no exaggeration to say that Guangzhou still has some of the best "eating, singing and dancing" in the whole country.

I have travelled to Guangzhou quite a few times in the last few years. Although I stayed only briefly for most of these visits, I discovered that the city's reputation for excellent food was well deserved. It was only on my most recent trip to do research for this article that I realized how much else this booming city had to offer in the way of entertainment.

Alarminglly Expensive Night Life

I stayed in the expensive Liuhua area, close to the railway station and the Chinese Export Commodities Fair Building. The Liuhua area is a bustling business district with many exclusive establishments, such as the five-star China Grand Hotel and the Dong Fang Hotel. In addition to the many small places in these hotels where people can eat, drink and have fun, there are expensive restaurants, shops and nightclubs, which together form an enclosed world of entertainment. As soon as I arrived in the Liuhua area, I could not help but notice how the local people love to spend money on pleasure.

For example, I was told a typical story of a man nicknamed First Brother, who had won many times at the horse races. After one race, he and his racing friends drove back to the city and began to look for a good place to eat. One of his party suggested that they go to the





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在廣州的消費場所中，
大豪客確實不少，否則，就不
會有那麼昂貴的消費水準，
那麼多極盡奢華的
「銷金窩」。

This Indian doorman at the Nanhai Fishing Village Restaurant is the first to be employed on the mainland (1, by Chen Yat Nin). ■ Famous stars and fashion models are often invited to perform in the city's karaoke bars (2, by Chan Yat Nin). ■ A Russian song and dance ensemble makes the circuit of the nightclubs in Guangzhou, always playing to a large audience (3, by Li Qidong). ■ The busiest time of the "night tea" at this restaurant is after 9 p.m. (4, by Chen Yat Nin). ■ McDonald's and Pizza Hut are patronized by "the new generation" (5, by Xie Guanghui). ■ A large number of movies playing in Guangzhou these days are Hong Kong, Taiwanese or foreign films. This advertisement says that the film is for "adults only" (6, by Chen Yat Nin).



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Xinguang Garden Restaurant, on the shores of Liuhua Lake. The restaurant is housed in an exotic palace-like building, and patrons are ferried to the "palace" in a boat, which gives them the feeling of receiving real "royal treatment".

First Brother, however, thought that the Nanhai Fishing Village Restaurant was a better choice, because he was a frequent patron and knew the waiters there. The guests naturally followed the host's wishes, so they drove all the way to the Nanhai Fishing Village.

As soon as their Mercedes-Benz stopped at the restaurant, an Indian doorman with a big beard and red turban came forward, politely opened the car doors for them, and smilingly ushered them into the restaurant. Apparently this restaurant is the only one in Guangzhou which employs an Indian doorman, in order to give itself a more imposing appearance.

First Brother chose the most expensive VIP room in the restaurant, where the minimum charge is 15,000 yuan. The main dishes were naturally seafood and rare delicacies, and a bottle of Martell brandy cost 20,000 yuan. When the bill came, it was more than double the minimum charge. Never mind: the guests were First Brother's friends and rivals in business. First Brother had to show them how rich he was in order to impress them.

Although there was karaoke equipment in the VIP room for diners to amuse themselves after eating, First Brother and his guests were not satisfied. They decided to go to the Mingdu Night Club across the street to spend the night singing and dancing.

The nightclub was gorgeously decorated and equipped with first-class karaoke equipment and sound, light and colour controls. A VIP room, not including drinks, was rather expensive for one evening, but they thought it was worth it because they enjoyed themselves so much.

There are indeed many big money-spenders in Guangzhou. Otherwise, prices could not have risen to such high levels and there would not be so many luxurious places where one can spend one's money.

The Mingdu Night Club is not the most expensive place for night-time entertainment in Guangzhou. The minimum charge for a VIP room in the China Hotel's Catwalk Karaoke is 3,800 yuan. Most of the top nightclubs employ a permanent staff of musicians, singers and dancers, and often stage performances by stars, famous models and Chinese and foreign song and dance ensembles.

However, not all the places in Guangzhou are expensive. Popular lower-priced places where one can spend the evening for a reasonable sum can be found in every part of the city. The expensive places are concentrated on the East Huanshi Road where the high-rises are. Most of the places on South

Renmin Road, Changdi Road and Upper and Lower Ninth Streets are medium-priced.

How much one is willing to spend on pleasure is an individual decision. The rapid growth of places in Guangzhou where one can spend one's money shows that the city's level of consumption as a whole is quite high.

Foreign Foods and Fashion Trends

Some people say that Guangzhou has the best eating, singing and dancing in the country today because the city was one of the first places to open up to the outside world, and thus its economy rapidly took off, so people became richer than ever before. There is, however, an internal reason, a reason to be found in the ardent temperament of the Guangzhou people who, as soon as they have money in their pockets, willingly spend it on food, clothes and fun for the sake of beauty, style and pleasure.

Guangzhou people have always been very particular about food, but these days they are making increasingly higher demands on the food they eat. It must not only be delicious, but also have style, taste and novelty.

Although Guangzhou's four most famous restaurants — the Guangzhou Restaurant, Dasanyuan, Taotaoju and Jiuchongtian — have been completely redecorated and are continually offering new dishes and refreshments, they find it hard to maintain their established positions and are being replaced by a new generation of restaurants, such as the Nanhai Fishing Village, Xinguang Garden Restaurant,



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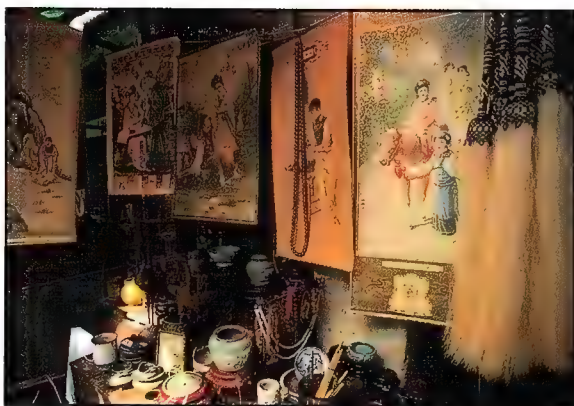


廣州人內在氣質中的
人本性特強。所以，只要有
了錢，就敢吃敢穿敢玩，
要美要威要樂。

To attract customers, stores offer big prizes, including automobiles, to anyone who makes a purchase (1, by Wong Kin Man). ■ The Goldfish Street on the site of the former Shufang Street boasts rare species of goldfish (2, by Chan Yat Nin). ■ Hong Kong's gold and jewellery shops have found their way into Guangzhou to meet the ever higher demand for such items (3, by Xie Guanghui). ■ Jade Ware Street is actually several streets where curios, jade articles, pottery and porcelain, paintings and calligraphy are sold in shops and stalls (4, by Chan Yat Nin). ■ The shops on Beijing Road that sell imported name-brand clothes do good business (5, by Xie Guanghui). ■ Knickknack shops on Lower Ninth Street sell products of similar quality as those sold in Hong Kong (6, by Chan Yat Nin).

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Xufulou and Jianingna. Food from other countries, such as Japanese food, Korean barbeque and Italian pizza, have one after another secured a foothold in Guangzhou. There are also many varieties of Chinese and Western fast food, which have been long established in the city and have quickly come to cater to the modern tastes of a new generation of Guangzhou people. These non-traditional eating places are widely distributed in Guangzhou and can be found almost everywhere.

It used to be that breakfast, known as *dim sum* in Guangzhou, and dinner time, were the busiest times for traditional restaurants and teahouses. As night life has become increasingly popular, people have begun to also enjoy "night tea". Restaurants now stay open at night and do a brisk business after nine, offering a wider variety of refreshments and dishes than for morning tea.

In the past, people in Guangzhou always gave others the impression that they paid more attention to food than clothing, forming a contrast with people in Shanghai who attached the most importance to the clothes they wore. Things have changed though, and Guangzhou is now leading the whole country in setting fashion trends.

Due to business and social activities and the general pursuit of a better life, people in Guangzhou have set higher and higher demands on their clothes to be comfortable and at the same time to express their personality. They are admirers of name-brands, and prefer Hong Kong brands as their first choice, many of which have already become well known in the business districts of Beijing Road, Upper and Lower Ninth Streets, Changdi Road and South Renmin Road.



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People's standards have been raised, and they now want only the most famous international brands such as Hermes, Gucci, Cartier and Chanel. To meet their needs, a number of top fashion stores and boutiques have opened branches in the city's big hotels and shopping centres such as the World Trade Centre, where prices range from several thousand to tens of thousands of yuan.

There are also, of course, popular, moderately priced clothing stores which can be found on almost every street and alley in Guangzhou. Those along the Xihu Road are doing the brisker business. People now pay attention not only to the clothes they wear, but also to everything else that is associated with their personal appearance, including their shoes, handbags, jewellery, hair styles and makeup, and demand higher quality in everything. As a result, there has been a boom in the number of beauty parlours, which include branches of companies from Hong Kong, Taiwan and other foreign countries.

It costs 300-500 yuan for a skin treatment in a beauty parlour; if a permanent and a manicure are included, the price goes up to 1,000 or more. Such high prices, however, have not deterred those who wish to be beautiful. Not a few people in Guangzhou spend a greater part of their income on makeup.

The modern sense of beauty is not limited to what one wears and one's makeup. To be youthful, energetic and elegant, yet have a personal style is the image of perfection sought after by modern men and women.

During my visit to Guangzhou, I was surprised by the widespread interest in fitness. The largest fitness centre in Guangzhou (and the whole country) — the Jianlibao Fitness Centre — has become a hugely successful enterprise. It has





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four or five branches in Guangzhou and more branches in Zhuhai, Shenzhen and Zhongshan. It has tens of thousands of VIP members and a countless number of regular members in Guangzhou alone.

The centre and branches are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. When I went to one, people were working out on fitness machines, doing exercises and aerobic dancing. There were also people training themselves in self-defence. The long-time members are no longer satisfied with just keeping fit: They want to be the fittest men and women in the country. The team formed by the Jianlibao Fitness Centre participated in the National Fitness Contests and has won several championships in the last few years.

Quite a few photographic studios specializing in taking wedding photographs have emerged in Guangzhou in recent years. These studios offer a complete service, including doing makeup, lending jewellery, wedding gowns and suits, photographing the newlyweds and producing a number of large and small photographs. The charge for one session is 500-4,000 yuan, and 1,500 yuan is a usual amount for most newlyweds in Guangzhou. There are two high-class wedding photo studios which claim to be the leaders of the pack. These studios have invested heavily in building actual settings, including magnificent Western-style classical gardens and elegant Eastern-style courtyards, and photograph the newlyweds in front of these settings. It is said that Guangzhou is the first city in China to start this type of photo studio. In fact, people here have become so fashion-conscious and

well-to-do that it is not uncommon to see a Rolls-Royce pull up to the city's poshest hotel, rented not by a movie star but by an ordinary couple for their wedding day.



Translated by Tang Bowen



4



6

廣州的健美熱，熱到令我驚奇的程度……

僅廣州一家最大的健美中心，就擁有貴賓會員幾萬人，普通會員更不計其數。



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Fitness exercises are highly popular in Guangzhou. At the Qinggong branch of the Jianlibao Fitness Centre, people work out day and night to improve their bodies (1, by Chan Yat Nin). ■ A wedding convoy of luxury cars is a common sight in the city of Guangzhou (2, by Xie Guanghui). ■ Guangzhou's modern, well-dressed girls lead the country in fashion (3, by Xie Guanghui). ■ Guangzhou's high-class photo studios provide everything for the perfect wedding photo, including the necessary clothes and a romantic garden setting (4, by Li Qidong). ■ When not displaying fashions on the catwalk, the famous model Li Zhaoling is a trend-setting designer (5, by Chan Yat Nin). ■ At the Liuhua branch of Jianlibao, young men practise body-building (6, by Chan Yat Nin).

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Touring Guangzhou's Four Satellite Cities

PHOTOS & ARTICLE
BY CHAN YAT NIN



1



2

好個花都，果然不再是
「花縣」，脫了村姑的大襟
衫，換了摩登扮相——
新廈林立，街道一新。

Many hotels have been built in the city district of Huadu (1). ■ The Hong Xiuquan Memorial Museum was originally the ancestral temple of the Hong clan (2). ■ The Furong Holiday Resort, facing the water and backed by a mountain, provides comprehensive services to holiday-makers (3). ■ The cascading Furongzhang Waterfall makes a drop of 90 metres (4).



3

In the past, the four suburban towns around the metropolis of Guangzhou were actually considered counties. Due to the rapid development of the provincial capital of Guangzhou in recent years, the counties have been upgraded to the status of cities. They are not only experiencing high-speed economic growth, but also going through sweeping changes in the field of tourism. Tourist attractions in the four satellite cities have joined hands with those inside Guangzhou proper, to create an area with much to see and do.

To begin with, the four satellite cities have become favourite holiday spots for residents of Guangzhou. During weekends and on holidays, all the scenic sites are full of visitors and the hotels entirely booked. Even on weekdays, the hotels are abuzz with business people who have come to strike deals. Tourists from other places are pouring in in increasing numbers as well. My advice is, if you wish to come for a visit, try to avoid the usually busy days.

The "Flower Capital" of Huadu

The city of Huadu (Flower Capital) got its name when it was changed from a county (Huaxian, or Flower County) into a city last year. Lying northwest of Guangzhou, Huadu is fenced in by mountains to the east, north and west, and faces the Pearl River Delta to the south. Travelling along State Highway 107 across this region of farmland and villages, one cannot help but be impressed with the expansiveness of land and sky. If you go by car, half an hour after you leave the hustle and bustle of the big city of Guangzhou, you are in Xinhua, the central district of Huadu. Before you enter the city, though, you are first greeted by rows of big billboards.

One of Huadu's more important tourist sites is the Hong Xiuquan Memorial Museum, in honour of the man who established and led the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom in the mid-1800s. Though it was at Jintian in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region where Hong started the well-known uprising against the Qing Dynasty, Hong himself was actually from Huaxian County, today's Huadu City. Today, this noted historic figure's residence has been made into a tourist attraction.

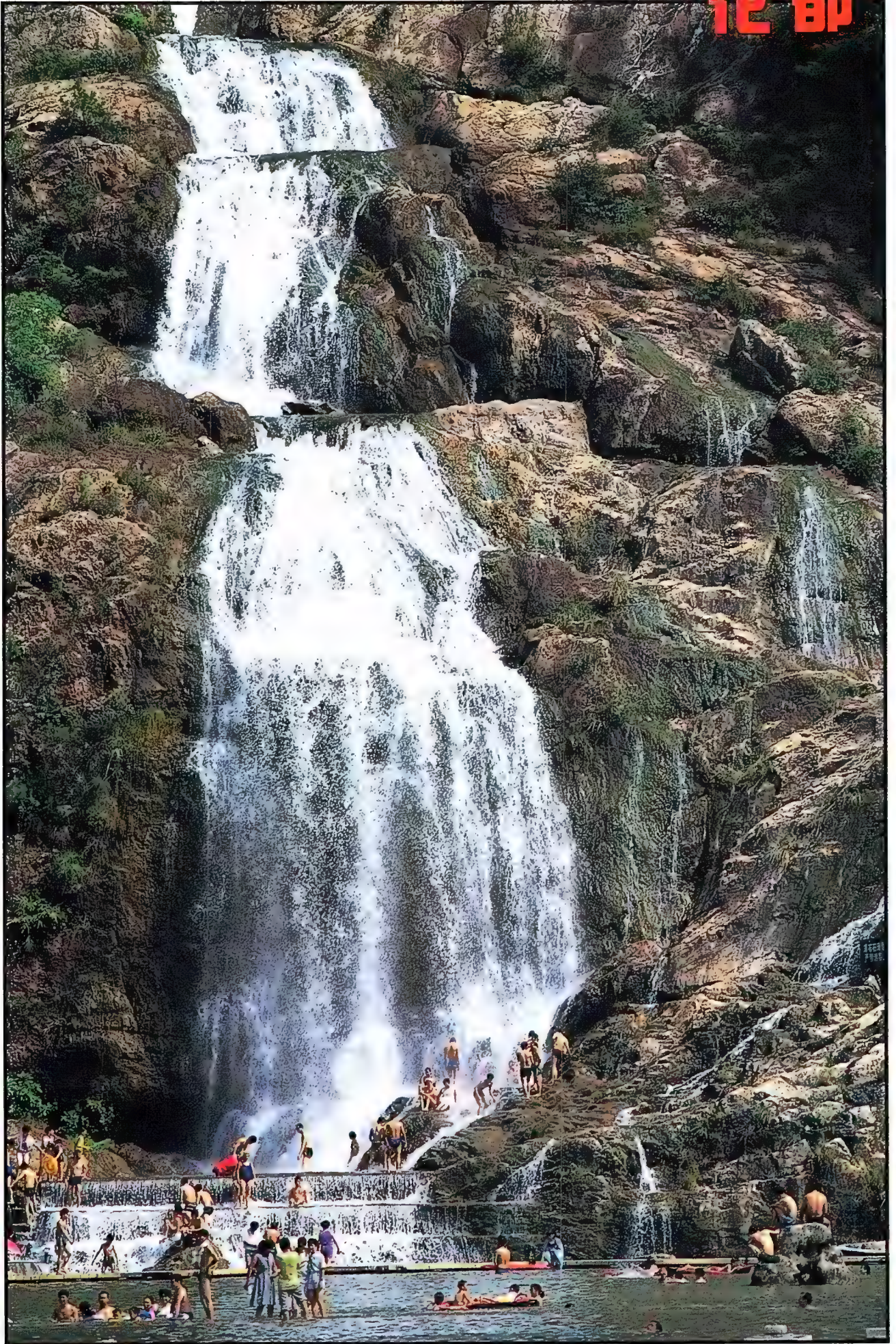
Hong's residence is located in Guanlubu Village, a dozen kilometres west of the city of Huadu. This rather ordinary-looking Hakka village is home to two clans, the Hongs and the Lins. The buildings that make up the Hong Xiuquan residence, collectively called the Study Pavilion, are actually recreations of the originals, which were burned down by Qing troops. This group of houses includes rooms arranged to resemble a Qing-dynasty private school, Hong's bedroom, and a room for housing ancestral portraits. Next to the Study Pavilion is the Ancestral Temple of the Hongs, which serves as the site for the Hong Xiuquan Memorial Museum. To the right of the museum there are two unusually sturdy

old longan trees believed to have been planted by Hong Xiuquan himself over a century ago.

Another big attraction in Huadu is the 90-metre-long Furongzhang Waterfall, the most famous in all of Guangdong Province. The waterfall is the centrepiece of the Furong Holiday Resort, whose 6,000 hectares encompass hills, waterfalls and forests. Though it is only very recently that the place has been turned into a tourist site, it has already become one of the most popular weekend destinations for Guangzhou residents.

Furongzhang is 16 kilometres north of Huadu City or 38 kilometres north of Guangzhou's city district. To reach Furongzhang by bus or car from Huadu, one can take State Highway 107 and then turn onto the special highway for the Furong Holiday Resort, which altogether takes 30 minutes. This brings you to the foot of a hill where one can see a huge, magnificent waterfall cascading down from a sheer cliffside. Interestingly, when the waterfall reaches the ground, the water turns into a placid lake instead of forming a turbulent stream. The lake forms a natural swimming pool large enough to accommodate some 10,000 swimmers at any given time.

In the holiday resort district, there is a road leading to the top of the hill for those who love climbing mountains. The area at the foot of the hill is complete with recreational services such as restaurants, hotels, karaoke bars, saunas, a foreign businessmen's club, a barbecue picnic area, tennis courts and a shooting range.





The Ever-Thriving Hot Spring City of Conghua

Directly to the north of Guangzhou, Conghua is the most hilly of the four satellite cities, as its northern part is encircled by tall mountains while to the south are rolling hills. Its terrain and geographical conditions make it an ideal tourist region of beautiful natural scenery.

Guangzhou and Conghua are linked by State Highway 105 and the distance takes about an hour to cover. Travel between Huadu and Conghua is also very convenient.

If you drive from the Baiyun District of Guangzhou to Conghua via the town of Taiping, you may want to stop there to see the pagoda that marks the Tropic of Cancer. Located exactly on the northern latitude that is most directly under the sun in summer, Taiping is on the demarcation line that separates the tropical and temperate zones. Built in the shape of a missile, the 23.5-metre-high pagoda is the largest of its kind on either the Tropic of Cancer or the Tropic of Capricorn. At precisely noon on the day of the Summer Solstice (in late June) of every year, the sun shines vertically through the hole at the top of the pagoda down to the centre of the ground right below. People come in great numbers and from all over to see this rare phenomenon.

Fifteen kilometres outside Conghua is the city's most well-known tourist attraction — the Hot Springs Scenic Area. If you have been here before, today you will find that this once quiet scenic spot has lost its traditional tranquility. Many new buildings, mostly restaurants, hotels and travel agencies, have sprung up along the Liuxi River. In addition, there are dance halls and golf courses, as well as villas for sale. The varied types of hot spring baths and swimming pools have long been popular with tourists.

The spring waters at Conghua have a temperature of 70°C, and contain aluminium, cobalt, manganese, copper, silver and radon, elements said to help cure and prevent many diseases. It is no wonder, then, that for decades this place has been patronized by people from many places. As tourism has developed in the past few years, a host of recreational facilities catering to tourists have come into being, turning this traditional health spa into a busy market. If you want to go to Conghua during the peak tourist season, make sure to make your reservations early, or you won't be able to find a bed even in a tent.

Two kilometres away from the hot springs is another tourist attraction, called Tianhu or Heavenly Lake. Actually a mountain reservoir fed by a tributary of the Liuxi River, the lake flows to the edge of a cliff and its waters rush down to form a three-tiered waterfall named "The 300-metre Flying Waterfall".

The Tianhu Lake district is equipped with speedboats, a horse racing track, a deer farm, a bear farm, a picnic area and other recreational conveniences. On the tip of a peninsula that juts out into the centre of the lake, a folk culture village has been built, where visitors are entertained with dances by ethnic minorities. After enjoying the area's lovely scenery, one can have a meal of wild game at the Mountain Pearl Tower Restaurant at the foot of the dam, or go shopping for local specialties such as natural honey, snake liquor, three-flower liquor, tender deer antlers and many others. In case the hotels at the hot springs are all full, an enjoyable alternative is to spend the night in the villas or cottages of ethnic minorities.

Almost all the tourist sites in Conghua are along the Liuxi River. If you continue upstream from the hot springs area you will come to another scenic site, the National Forest Park of the Liuxi River.

Covering an area of 8,830 hectares, 86 per cent of which is wooded, the park is one of the ten largest state forest parks in the country. Off in the distance one can see a combination of peaks and water, while up-close are the beautiful green islands of Liuxi Lake.

Inside the forest park, there is a water park where you can ride in a speedboat around the islands in the lake, or go swimming, fishing, camping or picnicking. Or one can stay in the village inside the park and experience fully the pleasure of the area's hills, rivers, lakes, birds and animals. I would never have expected that I would find such a quiet and peaceful place less than 100 kilometres from the metropolis of Guangzhou.



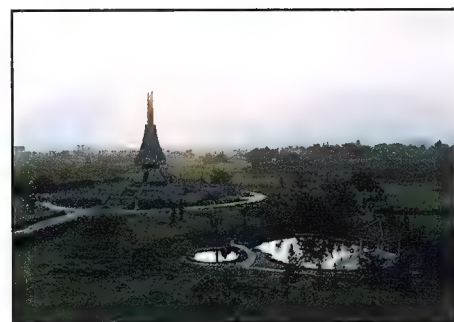
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在四個衛星市中，以從化的
山地面積比例最大，.....地理環境
使它形成以自然風光爲主的
旅遊特色。

No longer a quiet hot springs resort, Conghua has become a busy tourist region (1). ■ On the other side of the bridge is the Tianhu Mountain Villa, where visitors can enjoy ethnic minority dance performances (2). ■ With the hustle and bustle of a market town, Wenquan offers visitors a wide variety of wood carvings and other local products (3). ■ The Tianhu Lake district is popular with tourists who want to experience honey collection (4). ■ The pagoda marking the Tropic of Cancer at Taipingchang in Conghua (5, by Zhong Diqiong).



5

Panyu — A City Both Old and New

With the longest history of all the counties in Guangdong Province, Panyu was under the jurisdiction of Guangzhou for 2,000 years starting in the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), when it got its name from Pan Hill and Yu Hill near Guangzhou. The county seat of Panyu was moved out of Guangzhou in 1933 and moved again in 1954 to Shiqiao, and has stayed there ever since. Among the four satellite cities, Panyu was the first to be changed from a county to a city. Recently it has been listed among the top 10 county-sized cities for its overall economic strength. Panyu also has more sites of historical interest than any of the other three cities.

Just half an hour by car from Guangzhou's Haizhu District is Panyu's administrative centre of Shiqiao, and seven kilometres southwest of Shiqiao is the ancient town of Shawan. Here you will find Liugeng Hall, the most well-known temple in southern China, due to its magnificent architecture and meticulous carvings. One of Shawan's most impressive features is the preponderance of classical-style buildings, typical of the Pearl River Delta area.

Throughout history, Shawan has had a reputation for being a town of culture. Indeed, many famous opera actors and actresses and musicians of the modern era are from Shawan. The festival held every third day of the third lunar month is a reflection of the superb artistic achievements of the people of Shawan.

The Yuyin Mountain Villa, known as one of the four most famous ancient gardens in Guangdong, is located in Nancun, not far from Shiqiao. Dating back to the reign of Emperor Tongzhi (1862-1874) of the Qing Dynasty, the villa covers an area no more than 2,000 square metres, but it is complete with pavilions, terraces, towers, waterside buildings, corridors, arched bridges, flower-beds and lotus ponds that are separated by bamboo plants, trees and flowers. In addition, all the buildings are decorated with sophisticated carvings of exceptional workmanship. The meticulous overall design and use of space make the villa the best of the four famous gardens in the province.

If you are interested in marvellous scenery, Lianhua (Lotus Flower) Mountain is no doubt the best choice. Furthermore, the "mountain" is itself a site of historic interest. Situated at the mouth of the Pearl River some 20 kilometres southeast of Shiqiao, the mountain features sheer cliffs, massive rocks and strange caves that are unlike either natural or man-made scenery anywhere. Actually, the mountain was an ancient quarry begun during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). After several hundred years of quarrying and weathering, the place has arrived at its present unique look, thanks to the combined efforts of man and nature. On the mountain one can visit the Lotus Flower Pagoda, built during the Ming Dynasty, and the ancient Lotus Flower Fort from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), which was under the command of Lin Zexu during the Opium War in the 19th century.

There are other sites associated with the Opium War as well, such as the Upper Hengdang and Lower Hengdang islands. One can reach these islets from Shiqiao by taking the highway to Nansha and changing to a boat at the Nansha Ferry Pier. The cannons here once guarded the strategic military post at Humen; together with the Weiyuan Fort across the river, they controlled the mouth of the Pearl River. The defence works built during the Opium War still exist. While one is in Nansha, one can take a close look at what is going to be a new city at the mouth of the Pearl River. Initial signs of the new city are already visible. Formerly a peninsula created by alluvial sand, it is now covered with a network of roads. Houses are continually springing up on the land neatly crisscrossed by the roads. The Humen-Nansha ferry service brings about 10,000 vehicles across the Pearl River every day, and it takes just over an hour to get here from Hong Kong by boat. South of the ferry a series of deepwater berths are under construction.

To create another Shenzhen miracle, i.e., to build a new city at top speed, will be the most important endeavour for Guangdong Province over the next few years. When construction is complete, the place will become the largest water and land transportation hub in the Pearl River Delta, a major commercial city and a holiday resort catering to people from Hong Kong and Macau.

While it may be some time before Nansha turns into a major holiday centre, other tourist attractions completed in recent years in Panyu have brought in many tourists. For example, the Feilong (Flying Dragon) World Amusement Park in the town of Dashi just 10 kilometres from Guangzhou will soon be finished and will begin accepting visitors within the year. Funded by a man named Chien Lung Fei — known as "The King of Snakes" in Southeast Asia — it is to be the world's largest recreational centre featuring snakes. It has a miniature Dragon Palace Cave, recreations of scenes from the fairy tale *Story of the White Snake*, Asia's largest snake restaurant, and the world's biggest snake garden, where some of the million snakes perform together with

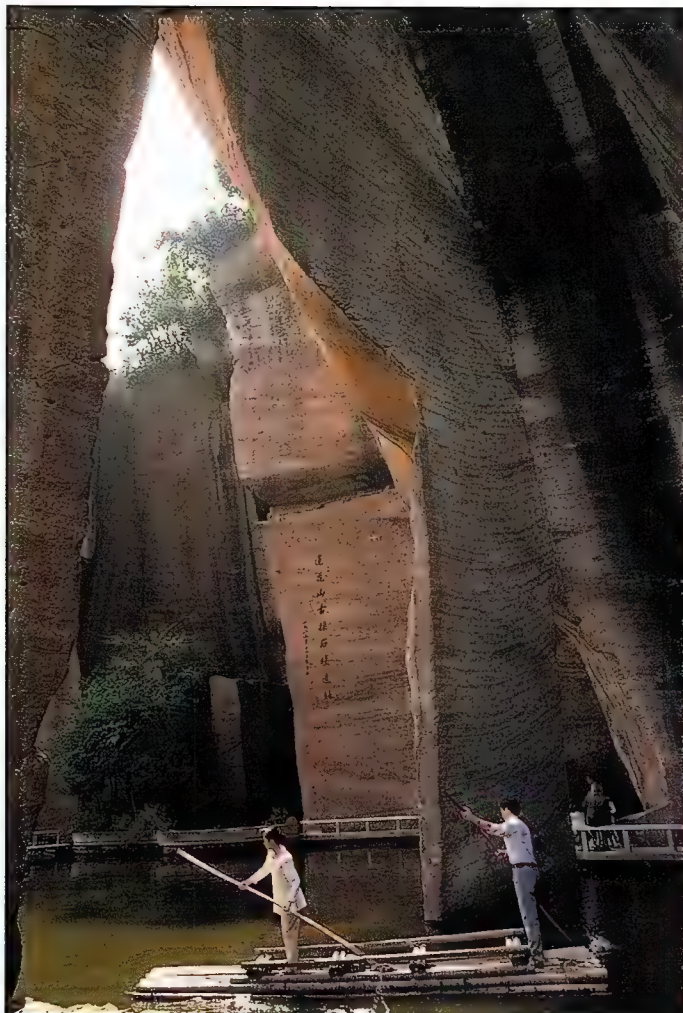


The Flying Dragon World Amusement Park is the first in the world to feature one million snakes. This huge snake is one of the park's "actors" (1). ■ The Yifa Shopping Mall in Panyu City is known nationally as the "Centre of Home Appliances" (2). ■ Shenliu Hall at the Yuyin Mountain Villa in Panyu is said to be the finest of Guangdong's four famous gardens (3).

番禺最早改制為市，綜合實力最雄厚，最近還被評為中國「明星縣(市)」，風頭可不小。

■ The strange-looking rocks and caves on Lianhua Mountain were created by centuries of quarrying (4). ■ A new city is being built in Nansha, and will serve as a water and land transportation hub on the Pearl River Delta (5). ■ The "Centre of Home Appliances" tries to attract customers with modern audio and lighting (6). ■ A street in Shiqiao, the centre of Panyu City (7)







man. The park is also equipped with all kinds of modern tourist recreational and service facilities. It is said that the park has enough activities to keep a visitor busy for three days.

Zengcheng — Home of the Lychee

Seventy-one kilometres east of Guangzhou along State Highway 324 is Zengcheng City, which has a history stretching back over 1,800 years. Ages ago there were only six towns in the Guangdong region, and when a new town was built, it was given the name Zengcheng, meaning “newly-added town”. For a town of such a long history, it should have many ancient sites, but unfortunately only the Ancestral Temple of Fairy He and the Phoenix Pavilion have survived to this day.

It is said that Fairy He was one of the Eight Immortals and a native of Zengcheng. After she obtained immortality, her villagers had an Ancestral Temple built to worship her. As it was built and maintained solely by the villagers, the small temple looks rather simple and unsophisticated, but it is always busy with worshippers from both China and abroad. Near the temple there is a 1,000-year-old vine, said to have been transformed from a coloured ribbon belonging to Fairy He. The aged and twisted vine is about 100 metres long, and is a unique sight.

Every year during the lychee harvesting season, visitors throng to Zengcheng to try this delicious fruit, thus creating a temporary boom in tourism — so much so that in recent years, a lychee festival has been organized every July. The best of all varieties of lychee is the “Zengcheng Gualü”, a local speciality. It has an unusual shape, a dark red skin with traces of green, and sweet, crystal-clear flesh.

For many years, from the reign of Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) onward during the Qing Dynasty, it was offered as tribute to the imperial court and was thus unavailable to ordinary people. Only one of the original trees from that era remains today, well protected in the Zengcheng Gualü Garden behind the Zengcheng Gualü Garden Restaurant. Fruit from this tree is naturally something extremely special. Fortunately, through careful cultivation second and third generation Zengcheng Gualü lychee trees now flourish. Opposite the Gualü Hotel is a lychee market with stands selling all varieties of the fruit. As they are picked on the same day, the lychees are fresh and a popular purchase for visitors, who take them away by the basketful.

Wonderful as it is, the lychee harvesting season is only two weeks long. Zengcheng lacks natural tourist attractions, so the local people have, in the past few years, created many tourist activities to help boost tourism in the city.

For example, in suburban Zengcheng, local people have taken advantage of the natural environment around a reservoir to build the Bailhua Villa Holiday Village, which includes a swimming pool, tennis courts and amusement park. And in Licheng Town is China's largest palace based on the classic story *Journey to the West*. Built by people who worked on the TV series of the same title, the palace is remarkable for its scale and superb workmanship. The meticulously executed settings, vivid figures, and sound, lighting and electronic devices imaginatively recreate vivid scenes from this classic story.

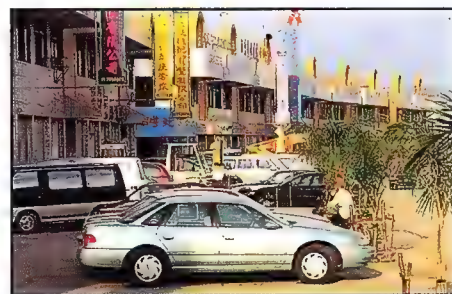
Another man-made tourist attraction in Zengcheng is called Dream World, which presents scenes from fairy tales such as *Gulliver's Travels*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Little Mermaid*. The lifelike figures give visitors the feeling that they have entered a fairyland of storybook characters.

Zengcheng's final tourist attraction are the dog races held at 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The racetrack is located just beside the Journey to the West Palace. The size of the track and the rules are similar to those in Macau, though the scale of gambling here is tiny compared to Macau. Strictly speaking, dog racing here is mostly for entertainment. When there is a race, dog lovers from Guangzhou and neighbouring counties and cities rush to the track to spend a pleasant evening out.

Translated by Huang Youyi



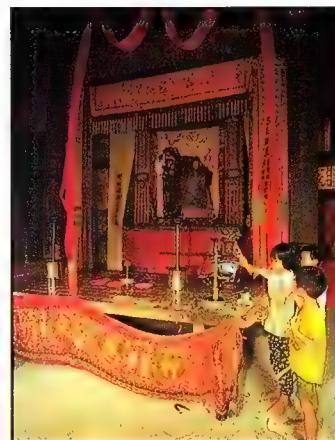
3



4

增城人蠻有經營頭腦，
在幾年間開發創造了不少引人入勝
的旅遊項目，……最爲刺激的
遊戲，莫過於每逢星期二、四、
六晚上8時開始的跑狗比賽了。

Dream World recreates scenes from world famous tales, as seen in this vivid work based on Gulliver's Travels (1). ■ The Bailhua Villa Holiday Village (2). ■ This whole street becomes a lychee market during the Lychee Festival in Zengcheng (3). ■ This street is known as the "Centre of Automobile Parts" (4). ■ Said to be a native of Zengcheng, Fairy He is worshipped in the Ancestral Temple of Fairy He (5).



5

Horse Racing — Guangzhou's

Horse racing has been a new development in China over the past half century, and in Guangzhou only got its start at the beginning of last year. Being new, it was necessary to "test the waters" so at first an experimental race was carried out, then two daytime races were organized every week. By June of this year, a day time horse race and a night-time horse race were scheduled for every week.

The inhabitants of Guangzhou were once novices at horse racing, but now they have become quite experienced at it, and some have even turned into devoted fans who attend every meeting.

不少廠家都認為，養馬參賽，等於是推出牽動萬人心弦的活廣告哩！

The newly-built racetrack in Guangzhou is located on the Huangpu Highway facing Jinan University in the eastern suburbs of Guangzhou. To get there, apart from taking a taxi, you can take a bus and get off at Jinan University. Turn south, and you will see the gate to the racetrack right in front of you.

On the day of a horse race, there is much coming and going of all kinds of cars on the square in front of the racetrack. The rich members of the club come to the races in luxurious private cars, while younger punters arrive on noisy motorcycles. The parking lot quickly fills up with hundreds of vehicles, and others come by public transport.

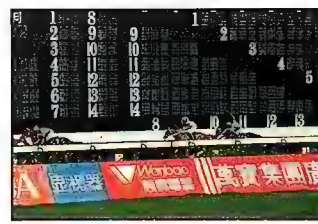
The main structure at the racetrack is the spectators' building. The lowest three tiers are open-air, with rows of seats rising behind one another. These seats are first-come, first-served, and are the cheapest way to watch the races. The fourth tier is fully covered and air-conditioned, with a glass wall facing the track. In this enclosed realm there are bars and restaurants, where only official members of the Horse Racing Club can have access to the facilities.

The fifth tier is at the disposal of the horse owners and distinguished guests. With even more comfortable facilities, this tier has a higher and wider view of the racetrack.



Newest Fad

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN
ARTICLE BY BEI LE



1

「羊城馬兒跑」，
開始於去年
年初……
到了今年6月，
就變成每周
一次日馬、
一次夜馬了
……



2


Although at first glance the spectators at a horse race in Guangzhou look just like those anywhere else — making bets, shouting at the horses and craning their necks for a better view — actually horse racing here is done a bit differently from other places. The main difference is that there is a betting limit placed on each person, of only one 10-yuan ticket per race, so the people here see horse racing as “a contest of mind” rather than as a way to get rich quickly. This regulation means that it is impossible to lose all one’s money and therefore helps to keep one’s gambling in check.

Another big difference between horse racing in Guangzhou and other places is that here, all 500 or so of the city’s top racehorses are owned by factories or enterprises rather than private individuals.

At the beginning of each race, the names of the racehorses appear on the screen. The name Hualin suggests the Hualin Electric Machinery Company as its owner, whereas the

name Apollo’s Wind, no doubt, points to the Apollo Oral Liquid Company as the owner. Thus many factories regard participating in horse racing as an effective method of advertising, since their horse’s name appears not only on the racetrack, but also on TV and in the newspapers. In addition, when a company’s horse takes part in a race, the employees of the company are naturally interested in how the horse does, and often place bets themselves. In this way, the company also strengthens its ties with its employees.

It is said that the objective of horse racing in Guangzhou is to take in extra cash that consumers have these days and put it to good use, as part of the proceeds of the races are spent on social welfare projects and public undertakings.

Horse racing in Guangzhou has also brought about a boom in the city's tourism industry. Each race attracts many spectators, including foreigners and people from Hong Kong and Taiwan who work in companies all over Guangdong. Although they cannot make big money, betting and watching the races is a good way to relax at the end of a long day. 

Translated by Gu Weizhou

Previous Page:

As far as the facilities and surroundings are concerned, Guangzhou's racecourse looks just like any other, except for the use of simplified Chinese characters (1). ■ Guangzhou racecourse is located on the Huangpu Highway in the suburbs of the city (2).

廣州有馬兒跑，在廣
人、香港人、台灣人

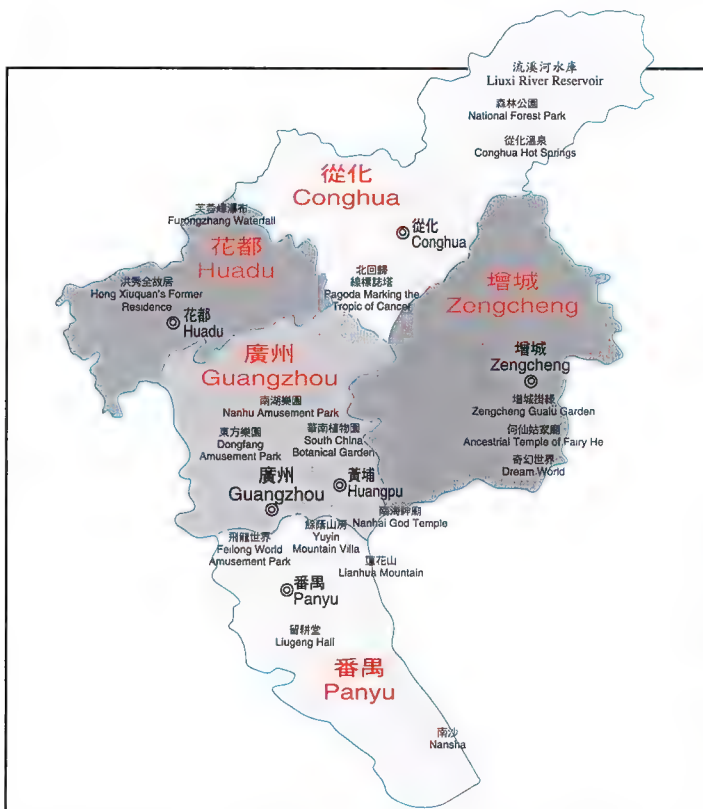


珠江三角洲辦公司的洋
也興沖沖地趕來投注

Closed-circuit TV sets have been installed for live broadcasting of the races (1). ■ The people in the lower tiers watch the race in the open (2, by Yang Yankang). ■ The first, second and third place winners in this race come to the stage to receive their prizes. An added bonus for the owner is that their company gets free advertising (3). ■ Horse races in Guangzhou are held twice a week (4, by Li Qidong). ■ On the day of a horse race, hundreds of motorcycles are parked in the square outside the racecourse (5, by Li Qidong). ■ The fourth tier is at the exclusive disposal of the members of the horse racing club and their distinguished guests. When they are not watching the race, they can engage in business talks and exchange business information (6). ■ This long spectators' tier is open to all (7).



Tourist Attractions and



Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province, is situated near Baiyun (White Cloud) Mountain and adjoins both Hong Kong and Macau, thus the city has long been known as the "Southern Gateway to China". As the Tropic of Cancer runs through the city, Guangzhou enjoys a warm climate and has flowers blossoming all year round, hence its other name of "Flower City". The city is now made up of eight districts: Dongshan, Yuexiu, Haizhu, Liwan, Huangpu, Tianhe, Fangcun and Baiyun, and four satellite cities: Huadu, Panyu, Conghua and Zengcheng. The total area is over 7,300 square kilometres.

Since Guangzhou has a history of 2,800 years and was once the starting point of the Maritime Silk Road, it boasts numerous sites of historic interest. The eight most important ancient structures here are Zhenhai Tower, the Five Immortals Temple, the Western Han Tomb of the King of Nanyue, the Chen Clan Temple, the Six Banyan Trees Temple, Guangxiao Temple, Huaisheng Mosque and the Stone House (a Roman Catholic church).

In modern times, Guangzhou was an important site for the political activities of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his companions, as well as other heroes of the Republic. As a result, a number of historic sites are related to that period: Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, the 72 Martyrs Mausoleum at Huanghuagang, the Memorial Park to the Martyrs of the Guangzhou Uprising, Lu Xun's Museum, the Museum of the Guangzhou Uprising, the Original Site of the National Peasant Movement Institute, the Museum of the Sanyuanli People's Anti-British Struggle, and the Huangpu Military Academy.

As the earliest city open to foreign trade, Guangzhou has a very successful tourism industry. The eight major tourist spots open to visitors are the Baiyun Scenic Area, Yuexiu Park, Liuhua Park, Orchid Garden, West Garden, Luhu Park, Guangzhou Zoo and the South China Botanical Garden. In addition, the Dongfang Amusement Park and the Nanhu Amusement Park were built just a few years ago. Indeed, Guangzhou has become a city ideal for tourism, as it boasts beautiful scenery, good food, shopping, entertainment and much more. Every year in October, the Guangzhou Art Festival is held in the city, in addition to a dragon boat race in the fifth lunar month (mid-June) and a commodities fair in spring and autumn.

Guangzhou also boasts over 40 top-class hotels which provide guests with special buses and coaches that shuttle to all the scenic spots. The 23 travel services in the city not only handle group travellers but also individual tourists, and can organize one-day, two-day, or longer tours as required.

Zhenhai Tower on yuexiu Park (by Peng Zhen Ge)



Yuexiu Park, located in Central District's Jiefang North Road, has many historical sites such as Zhenhai Tower, the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Monument, the Five Goat Statue and the Sifang Battery. Built at the start of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the five-storey Zhenhai Tower has been turned into the Guangzhou Museum. The Guanjing (Sight-Viewing) Terrace on the Guangzhou TV Tower on the mountain-top is the best vantage point for a bird's-eye view of Guangzhou.

Baiyun Mountain is located six kilometres from Guangzhou in the northern suburbs of the city. Its highest peak — Moxing Peak — is 380 metres above sea level, and can be reached by cable car. The mountain boasts luxuriant forests and scenic sites, such as the newly built Bird Paradise — the largest in China. In the park on top of the mountain one can visit Baiyun Wanwang Pavilion and an archway which reads "The No. 1 Peak in Southern China". In Beishan Park at the northern foot of the mountain, there are Pine Wave Courtyard, Nengren Temple and Shuiyue Pavilion. Lodging is available at the Shuangxi Villa and the Mountain Villa, both quiet and secluded places.



Huaisheng Mosque (by Chan Yat Nin)

Scenic Spots in Guangzhou

The brick carvings at the Chen Clan Temple (by Li Qidong)



The Stone House (by Mo Weichao)



South China Botanical Garden is located near Longyan Cave in the northern suburbs of the city. More than 4,500 species of tropical and subtropical plants from China and abroad are cultivated here. The garden is

**廣州開吃喝玩樂風氣之先，
旅遊業十分發達，已成為一個集風光
名勝、吃喝玩樂、購物消閑、
療養怡情為一體的旅遊勝地。**

divided into different sections that contain decorative plants, ferns, bamboo and medicinal plants.

The Museum of the Sanyuanli People's Anti-British Struggle was originally the site of the ancient Sanyuan Temple, located in Sanyuanli. In

1841, the Sanyuanli people took an oath at this temple to fight against the British invaders; the museum was built in the 1950s to commemorate the struggle. Nearby is the Monument to the Martyrs of the Anti-British Struggle.

The 72 Martyrs Mausoleum at Huanghuagang was built near Xianlie Road Central. It is a mass tomb for the 72 martyrs of the Guangzhou Uprising launched in 1911 by Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The memorial gateway — the entrance to the mausoleum — is carved with the words "Martyrs' Spirits Are Immortal" in Dr. Sun Yat-sen's handwriting. Behind the stone tomb is a granite monument inscribed with the names of the 72 martyrs, and on its top stands a replica of the Statue of Liberty.

The Memorial Park of the Martyrs of the Guangzhou Uprising is located on Zhongshan Road 3, and was built to commemorate the martyrs who were killed in the Guangzhou Uprising of 1927. To the east of the mausoleum are the Blood-stained Ceremonial Pavilion, the Sino-Soviet Friendship Pavilion, the Sino-Korean Friendship Pavilion and the Museum of Guangzhou's Revolutionary History.



In the Bird Paradise on Mt. Baiyun (by Li Qidong)



Six Banyan Trees Temple (by Chan Yat Nin)

The Dongfang Amusement Park (by Chan Yat Nin)



Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall stands at the foot of Yuexiu Mountain and is linked by stone steps with the Memorial Monument of Dr. Sun Yat-sen on the top of the mountain. The hall is an octagonal palace-like building with red walls and green glazed tiles on the roof. A bronze statue of Dr. Sun stands inside the hall, and to the west there is a room containing records of Dr. Sun's political career.

The Guangdong Provincial Museum / Lu Xun Memorial Hall is situated on Wenming Road in the city proper. This was once the site of Guangdong's imperial examination hall during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), and later of Zhongshan University. The Dazhong (Big Bell) Tower, which is now the Lu Xun Memorial Hall, once served as the administrative office for Zhongshan University, and the site of the First Congress of the Kuomintang.

Guangxiao Temple on Guangxiao Road in the urban district is the oldest historical site and has the greatest number of historical relics in Guangzhou, as it was the mansion of Prince Zhao Jiande of the Nanyue Kingdom during the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24). The temple was first built by an Indian monk during the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) and got its present name in 1151 during the Song Dynasty. The Daxiong (Grand Buddha) Hall is the oldest structure in South China. The East and West Iron Pagodas are the oldest and most well-preserved iron pagodas extant in China. Other historical sites include Dabei (Great Sorrow) Chamber, the Reclining Buddha Tower, Liuzu Hall, the Hair-Burying Pagoda and some large bronze Buddha statues.



The 72 Martyrs Monument at Huanghuagang (by Chan Yat Nin)

The Tomb of the King of Nanyue (by Peng Zhen Ge)



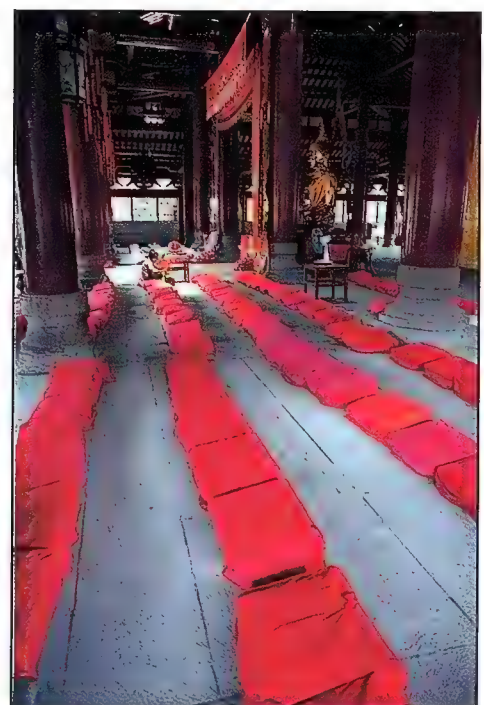
The Chen Clan Temple, now the site of the Guangdong Folk Arts and Crafts Museum and situated on Zhongshan Road 7, is the ancestral temple for all the Chens in Guangdong's 72 counties. First built in 1890 and decorated with carvings in ceramic, stone, brick, lime and cast iron, the temple is a combination of many southern Chinese architectural folk decorations.

Huaisheng Mosque, located on Guangta Road, was built in 627 during the Tang Dynasty to commemorate Mohammed, the Prophet of Islam. One of the oldest mosques in China's coastal area, it is still a venue for Islamic activities. Inside the mosque is the 36-metre-high castle-like Guangta Minaret.

The Five Immortals Temple is located on Huifu Road West in the heart of the city. According to legend, the site was where five immortals descended from heaven riding on five goats of different colours, hence the other nickname for Guangzhou: Goat City. The temple was first constructed in the Northern Song Dynasty and then rebuilt in the Ming. In the temple grounds are the famous "No. 1 Building in South China", the Dajin (Forbidden) Bell and the mysterious Footprints of the Immortals in red sandstone.

Six Banyan Trees Temple, situated on Liurong Road, was built in 537. The 57-metre-high pagoda still intact in the temple is the tallest ancient structure in Guangzhou. With its many ancient tablets and old banyan trees, the temple has long been a popular place for Guangzhou's Buddhist activities.

The Tomb of the Islamic Sage lies in Guihuagang at the northern edge



The Daxiong Hall at Guangxiao Temple (by Chan Yat Nin)

Guangdong Provincial Museum / Lu Xun Memorial Hall (by Chan Yat Nin)



of the city. Legends say that 1,300 years ago, the Arab Abbey Wangus was sent by the Prophet Mohammed to China as a missionary. After his death he was buried on this spot. The round Islamic-style tomb is hollow inside, with a door. When people recite prayers inside it, the sound reverberates in the tomb, thus it is also called the Resounding Tomb.

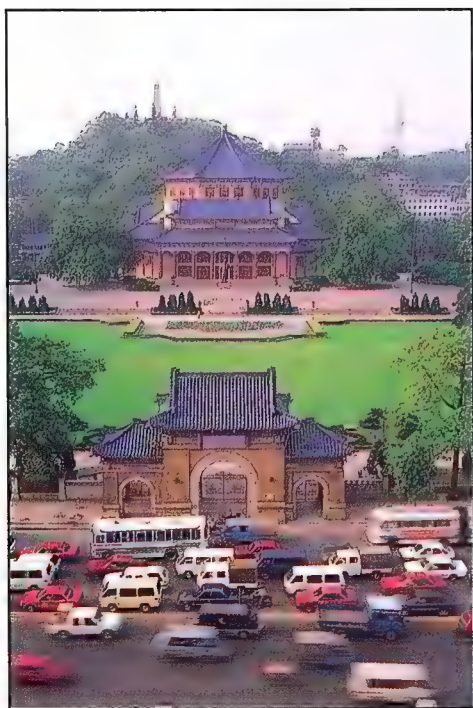
The Western Han Tomb of the King of Nanyue stands on Xianggang Mountain in the city's urban district. The tomb of Zhao Mei, the King of Nanyue, built 2,600 years ago, is a veritable underground palace. It is the biggest stone tomb in South China. Over 1,000 funerary objects have

廣州旅遊條件良好，這裡有高檔賓館、飯店40多家，床位充裕、車輛方便，各景點均有公共巴士和旅遊專線車相通。

been unearthed from the tomb, including the seal belonging to the tomb's occupant — the biggest Western Han gold seal ever found in China. The tomb is now open as a museum.

The Huangpu Military Academy is about 20 kilometres from the city proper, on Huangpu's Changzhou Island. In the 1920s a large batch of well-trained statesmen and officers graduated from the academy.

The Dongfang Amusement Park, located in the northern suburbs of



Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall (by Lin Xing)


The Memorial Monument to Dr. Sun Yat-sen at the Huangpu Military Academy (by Lin Xing)



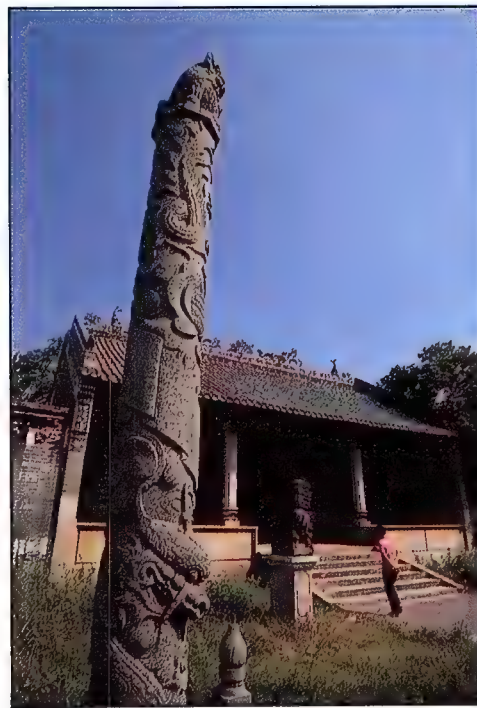
the city, is a modern amusement centre and holiday resort. Covering an area of 34 hectares, the park boasts more than 40 recreational facilities. Delicacies from different parts of the country and souvenirs are also available.

The Nanhu National Holiday Resort is one of the country's 12 State-level holiday resorts. Situated eight kilometres east of the city proper, the resort has an area of 1,500 hectares which embraces the Dongfang Amusement Park, the Nanhu Amusement Park and the Dajinzhong Reservoir. The resort is divided into three parts, namely the scenic area, the holiday resort and the recreation and exhibition area. Apart from the above-mentioned two parks and the reservoir, there are some 30 facilities, the major ones being a top-class holiday villa area, the China Taiji City, and the Dongfang Recreation City.

The Stone House (Roman Catholic Church), located on Yide Road, was actually the office of the governor of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces during the late Qing Dynasty. Originally named the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, it was built entirely of granite, hence its name, the Stone House. This, the largest Catholic church in China, is well known in the Far East and is still a religious centre for Guangzhou's Roman Catholics.

Nanhai (South Seas) God Temple occupies an area of three hectares at Huangpu's Miaotou Village. First built in 594, it is the only Sea God Temple left in China. Once the starting point of the ancient Maritime Silk Road, the temple boasts a tourist attraction named Yuri (Sunbathing) Pavilion, one of the eight famous views of the Goat City in ancient times. 

Translated by K.V. Ku



Nanhai God Temple (by Tai Chi Yin)

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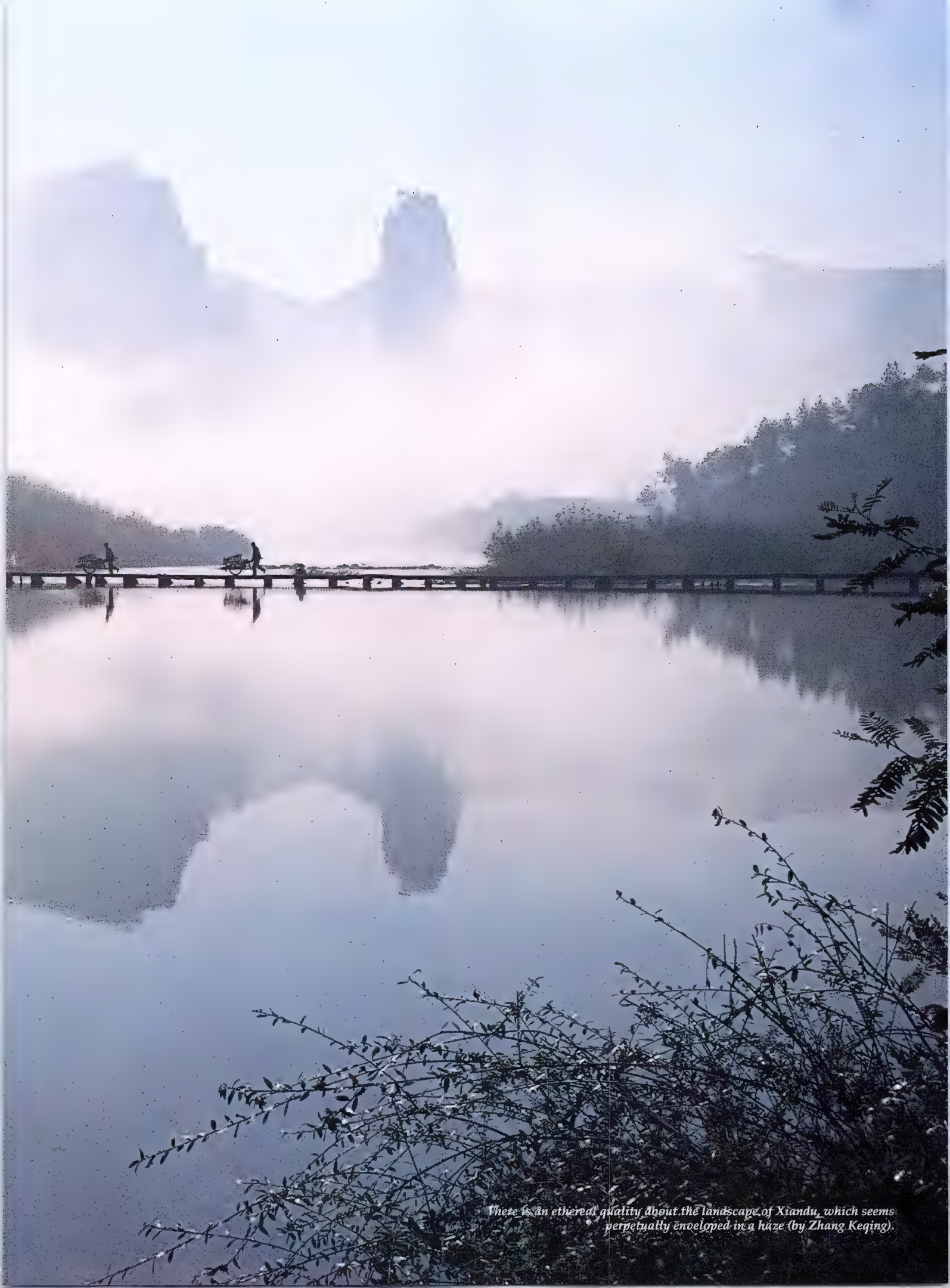


Xiayang, a charming village which nestles below a pair of stones known as "Young Woman with Her Mother-in-law" which overlook the Haoxi River.



A Visit to Xianduo: The City of Immortals

PHOTOS BY CHU XIAOQING
ARTICLE BY AN GE & QIAN TING



*There is an ethereal quality about the landscape of Xiandu, which seems
perpetually enveloped in a haze (by Zhang Keqing).*



Dufeng Academy was where Zhu Xi, the celebrated Song-dynasty Confucian scholar, gave his lectures.

Known as "No. 1 Stalagmite Under Heaven", Dinghu Peak stands 160 metres tall.



Eight beautifully designed stone bridges have been built over the zigzagging Huaxi River.



This stone bridge dates back to the Ming Dynasty.



The clean water of the Haoxi River is used to do daily laundry.

The destination of our journey, situated eight kilometres east of Jinyun County in southern Zhejiang Province's Lishui Prefecture, has every element of a picture-perfect landscape — green hills, sparkling rivers and rocks in exotic shapes. Legend has it that during the reign of Emperor Xuanzong (712-756) of the Tang Dynasty, the place was enveloped in rosy clouds, with cranes frolicking to the sound of celestial music. Emperor Xuanzong, believing that this was a home of immortals, named it "Xiandu", which means "the Capital City of Immortals".

An old Chinese saying goes, "A mountain earns its fame not from its height but from the celestial beings who reside there." Not a single hill in Xiandu exceeds 500 metres in height, but there is an unmistakably ethereal quality about the serene repose of the surroundings. Apart from its fame as home to celestial beings, Xiandu has been frequented by great men of letters throughout the ages, who have inscribed the stones there with many beautiful poems.

Leaving the county seat and driving down the highway which ran parallel to the sparkling Haoxi River, we soon arrived in the Xiandu Scenic Area. The river now widened, now narrowed as it meandered its way through the jumbled rocky hills. The rocky protuberances in the foreground were studied with caves and streaked with springs at intervals of 15 to 25 metres. Even a moderate rainfall turns these springs into cascading waterfalls.

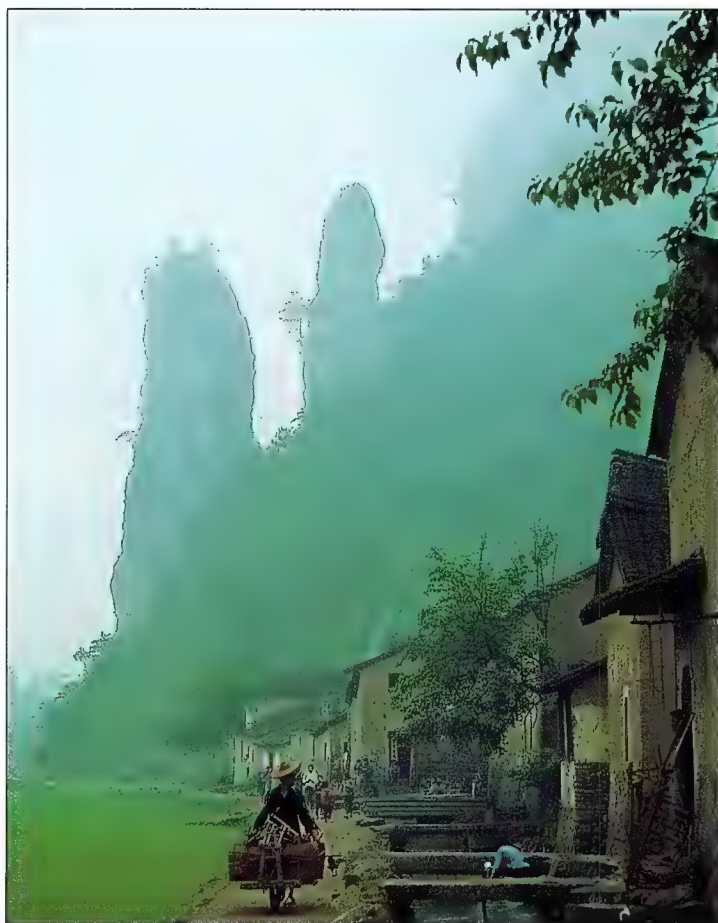
The rocks are of indescribable shapes and each is the subject of a touching tale. The most famous of them bear interesting names, like "Young Woman with Her Mother-in-law" and "Elder Brother and His Sedan Chair". On a hill-top overlooking the Haoxi River stand two huge boulders, one looking like a young woman gazing expectantly into the distance, and the other resembling the thin, hunchbacked form of an old woman lost in a reverie. It is believed that the two are waiting for their loved one to return from an expe-

dition to the country's border regions. On the edge of the highway are another two huge rocks, but these seem to resemble a man on his way to fetch his sister home, with a sedan chair beside him.

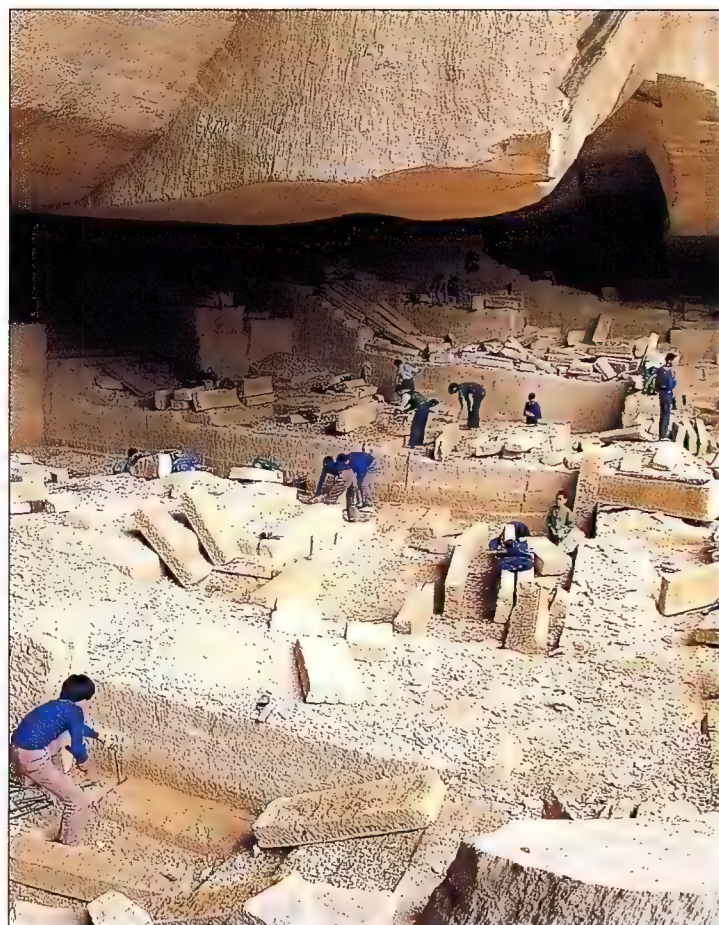
Threading our way through ancient-looking trees and crossing the Haoxi River by way of a long stone bridge, we arrived at the Minor Chibi Scenic Spot. There we saw a 70-metre-long natural stone corridor mid-way up the reddish cliff wall. The local people call it "Road of the White Snake". A prince arrived at this place with enemy troops hot on his heels. He was at his wit's end when a high wind rose and it started raining heavily. Amidst the lightning, a tiny white snake crawled across the cliff wall, carving out a path by which the prince fled to safety.

Looking down at the Haoxi River from the Baxian (Eight Immortals) Pavilion we saw a rocky islet shimmering in a pond. The islet, topped with rocks and greenery arranged in a mini-landscape, is known as the Minor Penglai Island — the Chinese version of Shangri-la.

The Niweng Cave Scenic Area sits opposite the Minor Chibi Scenic Spot across the Haoxi River in a place about one kilometre to the northwest of Xiayang Village. The cliffs are covered with a web of mountain trails and studded with caves, and inscribed here and there with calligraphy. The Xiandu Guest House and the famous Guji Dufeng Academy are situated by an ancient pavilion which is perched high up in the heavily wooded mountains. The academy was where Zhu Xi (1130-1200), the Song-dynasty scholar, delivered lectures to a congregation of scholars. Three seal charac-



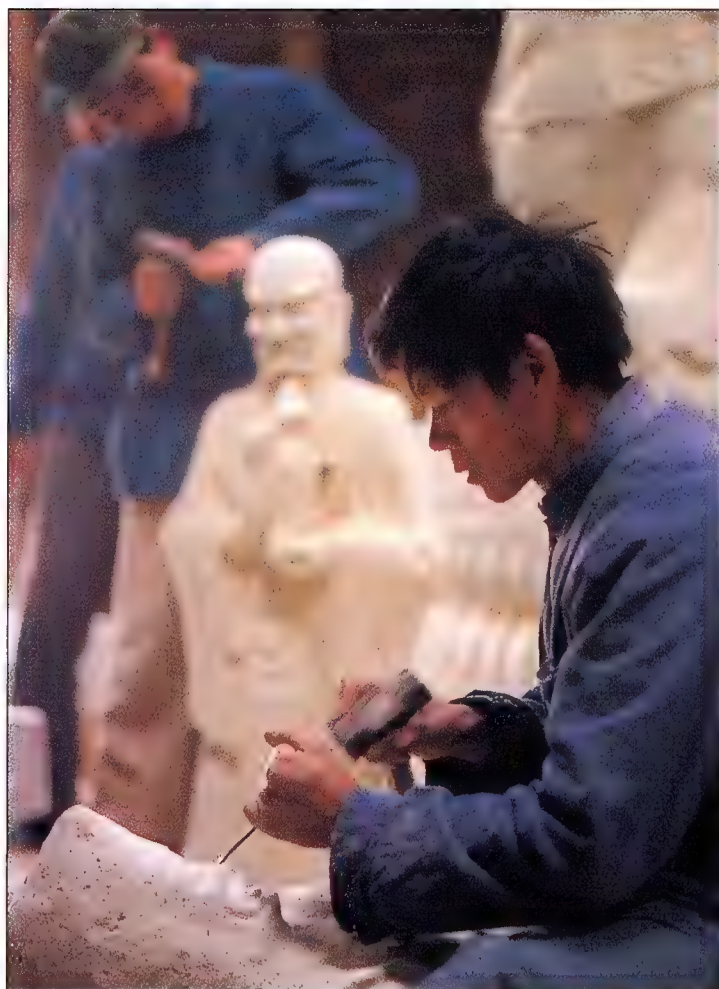
The unique scenery of Minor Xiandu in Jinyun County.



One of the quarries in Jinyun County (by Liu Shizhao)



Villages in Xiandu are surrounded by a charming pastoral land (by Liu Shizhao).



These stone carvings of the Eight Immortals are for a client from overseas (by Liu Shizhao).



The perpendicular reddish cliff in Minor Chibi looks even more splendid in the setting sun.

ters, meaning "Niweng Cave", are inscribed at the entrance of the cave. Niweng was the name of an ancient hermit who once lived in the cave.

Travelling south along the Haoxi River for about two kilometres from the Niweng Cave, we arrived at the Dinghu Peak Scenic Area, where the river becomes wider and flows more gently. Renamed "Chain Stream" by the local people, the river is flanked with paddy fields, forests and villages and its shores are thick with chest-high reeds and brambles. A 160-metre-tall stalagmite peak 30 metres in diameter stands erect by the river. This is the well-known Dinghu Peak. Built as if to hug the surface of the Chain Stream, a winding bridge several dozen metres long and a half-metre wide conducts travellers to the foot of the stalagmite. Archaeologists believe that the bridge was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Bypassing the foot of Dinghu Peak we climbed up the Buxu Mountain, or the Mountain of the Ethereal World. "Buxu", a term in Taoism, means "ascending to the celestial world". From the top of the mountain we got a bird's-eye view of the surroundings. A leisurely wind came wafting by, bringing with it the dampness of the mountain haze and creating the feeling that one was drifting into the world of the immortals.

Standing in the Buxu Pavilion with its upturning eaves we saw, amidst the luxuriant wood and grass on the top of Dinghu Peak, the mirror-like surface of a pond several metres in diameter. It is said to be the place where the Yellow Emperor, the father of the Chinese nation, built a ding, or tripod, and started making pills of immortality in it. Hence the name "Dinghu", meaning "Lake of the Tripod".

Eulaliopsis binata, a traditional Chinese medicinal herb, grows profusely around the lake. The local people call it "dragon's beard" because, as the legend has it, when the Yellow Emperor had succeeded in making the pills of immortality and mounted a red dragon for his ascent to heaven, in its haste the dragon dropped a piece of its beard to the ground.

In recent years Dinghu Peak has attracted a constant stream of adventurers determined to conquer the stalagmite. In 1988, a team headed by the famous adventurer Lou Lanting and a young local made headlines by becoming the first persons to reach the top. They climbed to the top with the help of ropes and bamboo poles suspended from the precipitous cliff. Using

a basket suspended on a rope-bridge built between Buxu Peak and Dinghu Peak, they lifted teammates one by one to the top.

Walking east for about two kilometres from the Dinghu Peak, we crossed quite a few bridges and went through some villages until we got to the Furong (Hibiscus) Canyon Scenic Area. The charm of the pastoral landscape on our journey was set off handsomely by green mountains and clean rivers. When we had crossed the Haoxi River at Shangzhang Village, we saw the canyon hemmed in between perpendicular rocky walls topped with a screw-shaped boulder. The canyon turned out to be a lane several dozen metres long and three metres wide, where the stones are the shape of hibiscus flowers. The flat top of the screw-shaped boulder was the site of the Tiecheng Academy, where some famous scholars lived in seclusion during the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

Along the 10-kilometre journey from the stones of "Young Woman with Her Mother-in-law" to the Furong Canyon, the Haoxi River meanders its way through mountains and fields, and the cliffs and boulders on both banks assume varying shapes. Eight bridges straddle the river, which also runs through seven villages. Morning haze and late-afternoon rains are part and parcel of life in Xiandu. Travelling here is a most idyllic experience. It is small wonder the place is often chosen by film crews on location.

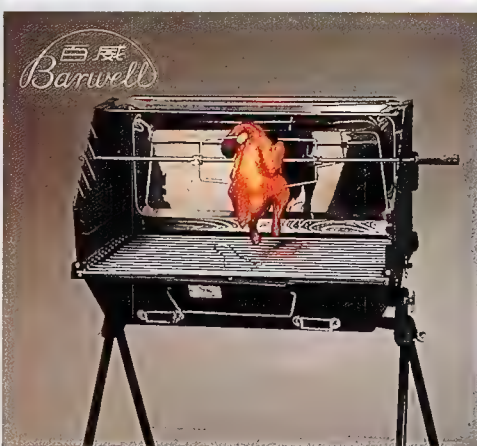
Xiandu is not the only beautiful spot in Jinyun County. There are three other major tourist attractions — Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Hill, Minor Xiandu and Stone Gateway — where the scenery is, as a rule, graced with green woods, towering bamboo groves, gurgling springs and stones in bizarre shapes.

Mountainous Jinyun County abounds in high-quality granite. Many houses there are built of this type of grey rock. Wuyun Town, where the county government is headquartered, is virtually a world of stones — stone houses, flagged streets and stone dykes. Hence the nickname "City of Stone".

Stone masons from Jinyun County are famous for their superb workmanship. Roadsides are crowded with stores selling tables, stools, water troughs, coffins, Buddhist shrines — all made of stone. Many tourists come to the county not just for the sightseeing, they also come to buy stone products. ☐

Translated by Ling Yuan

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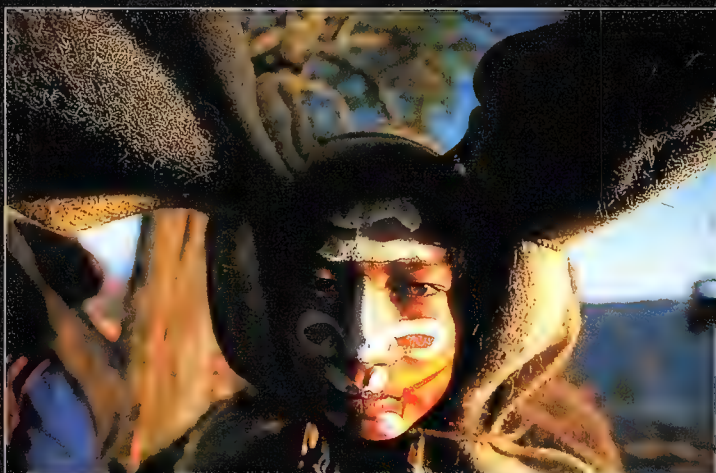
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The Yi Minority's Naked Leopard Dance

PHOTOS BY XU JINYAN
ARTICLE BY KANG ENDA



Painted all over with multi-coloured pigments, the dancers are beyond recognition — even to family members.





Juvenile leopard dancers in a frenzy



The percussionists



The "leopards" change their steps to the rhythm of the gongs and drums (by Kang Enda).

A body being painted in the pattern of a leopard

Ezu is a village in Shuangbai County in Yunnan's Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture. The villagers, who belong to a lesser minority group called the Nasu among the Yi people, are known for a primitive form of ritualistic dance known in the Tibeto-Burman language as "Yugmo-Lhage-She". It means "dancing naked, painted like a leopard".

Nestled at the foot of Ailao Mountain, Ezu is a typical ancient Yi village, with an archway erected at the entrance in the traditional Yi style and lanes less than two metres wide. The only brick-and-tile building belongs to the village office. The 89 families live in wooden-roofed mud huts which are linked by ladders made from a single plank. The Yugmo-Lhage-She Festival falls on the 15th day of the seventh



Painted and masked, do you know who I am?

lunar month. The dance-actors are 12-year-old boys each wielding a wooden stick and wearing a palm-frond mask with a plume of two pheasant feathers. Their bodies are entirely naked and painted in patterns from head to toe with pigments made by grinding pebbles of all colours into a paste. The curvilinear patterns are varied — tiger or leopard skin dots and streaks on the back, belly and limbs; images of tigers, dragons, leopards, buffalos, horses or the moon, the sun or stars on the chest and birds of prey on the spine. The boys are not allowed to talk during the ritual, and they are so perfectly disguised that even family members find it hard to recognize them.

A team of young girls opened the ritual by beating drums, gongs and cymbals. In the cacophony the leopard dancers emerged from their dressing room and swiftly mounted the roof of a mud building. There they swung into dancing steps, stamping the plank roof with their feet all the time, changing tempo and action in syncopated rhythm with the percussion. The entire village turned out, with the closest spots hogged by giggling young girls.

When, about half an hour later, the “percussionists” ceased playing, the “leopards” launched into spontaneous action. Aping wild beasts, they crawled, rolled, gnawed and pranced at each other in mock fights. Some imitated humans at weddings or doing farm work; some acted as if they were birds hatching eggs. Suddenly they shot down from the roof flailing their wooden sticks about amongst the onlookers, but it was the girls who were the objects of their chasing and teasing.

When a dancer had cornered one of the girls he would give her a

mock spanking, and then the girl was obliged to bring her “torturer” to her family. Her parents had left the door open and placed pumpkin and sunflower seeds, peanuts, stuffed buns and other offerings on the table. Following the girl, the “leopard” would descend from the roof-top into the house, and partake of the offerings while messing the room up. Then, picking up his stick again, he would poke at whatever he saw in the house, the kitchen and the pigsty. This is a ritual to banish evil spirits out of the door.

In this way the juvenile leopard impersonators called on one house after another, chasing the evil spirits first out of the village and then out

Juvenile dancers strike a proud pose (by Kang Enda).



“Leopards” are hot on the heels of village girls.





Banishing evil spirits out of the door



"Leopards" about to deal a mock spanking on their prey, an adorable girl (by Kang Enda)


of the fields. Only after they had finished all these tasks were they allowed to jump into the river, wash the pigments off their bodies and regain their real identities.

No member of the Ezu tribe could tell me where and when the Yugmo-Lhage-She Festival originated, but everyone knows that this ancient ritual is designed to exorcise evil and ward off misfortunes in the village. Ethnographic studies over the last few years, however, have

attributed the leopard dancing — a valuable part of the heritage of the Yi people — to the reign of the fabled Yellow Emperor in the prehistoric period, when dancers started disguising themselves as animals in the festival of the banishment of evil spirits. By the Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-212 B.C.), the ritual had evolved as part of the state ceremonial system and it was presided over by priest-exorcists who were dressed up as beasts in the same way as shamans among the Yi today. The evil-banishing festival reached its peak during the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), when powerful choreography was devised to ward off ghosts and goblins.

Members of the Nasu tribe in Ezu Village believe that everything in this world has a soul and that all ghosts are incarnations of human souls. They respect the good and hate evil. Whenever someone dies a natural death they invite a shaman to pacify the soul of the deceased and send it to the midst of their ancestors, and whenever someone dies in an accident, they invite the shaman to drive his soul out of their way.

The Yi are animal worshippers as well, believing that animals are more powerful than men. That is why they always seek help from animals in their fight against evil spirits.

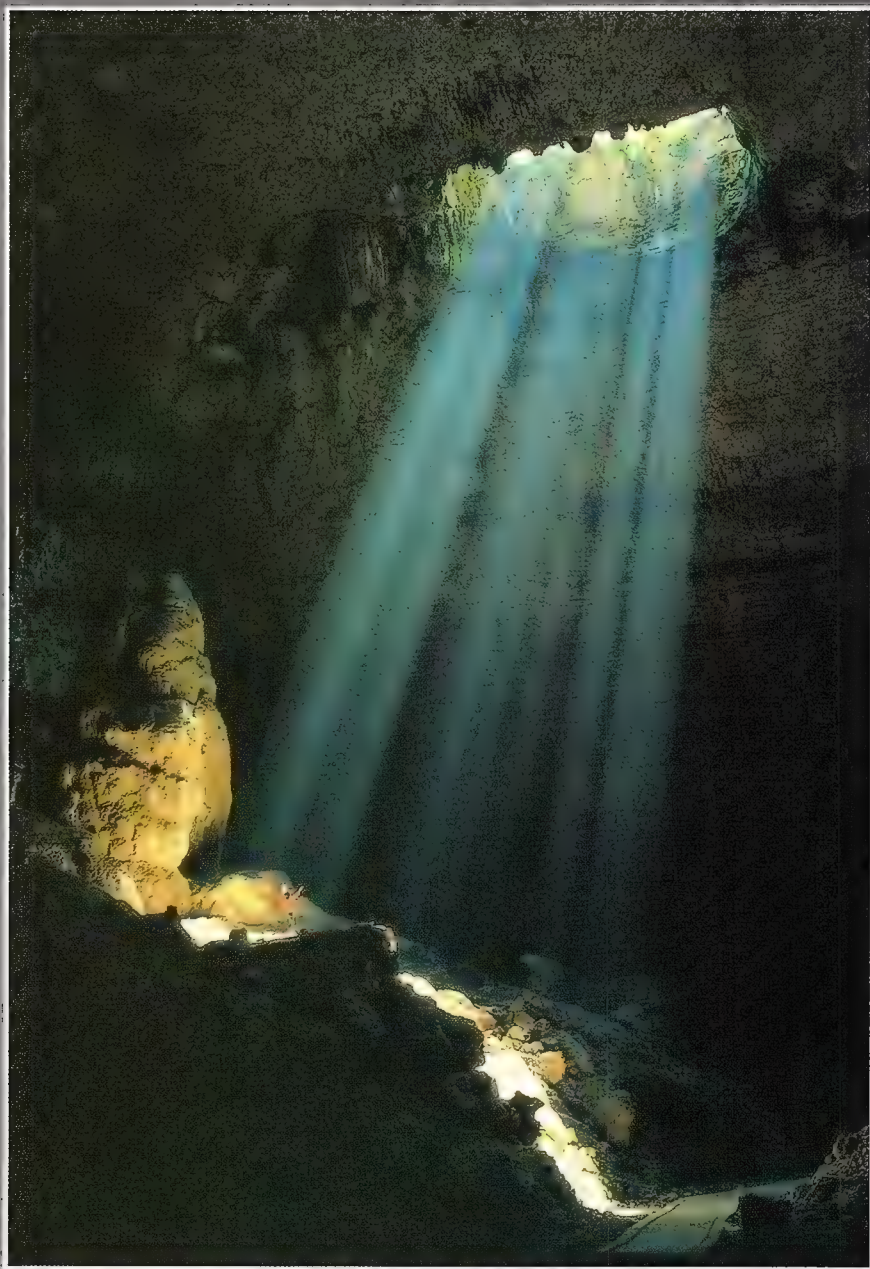
In Ezu Village, remote both culturally and economically, the evil-banishing ritual has retained its primitive form, a form yet to be verified by any written record. Instead of "dressing" themselves up in the image of animals, the villagers simply "paint" themselves into animals. This is precisely why ethnographers and researchers in primitive arts find the Nasu-style Yugmo-Lhage-She in Ezu Village so fascinating. 

Translated by Ling Yuan

Xingwen

— The Home of Karst Caves

ARTICLE BY ZHANG ZHONGLONG



Stalactites pouring into the depression form a "skylight" (by Lin Yiping).

Xingwen County in southern Sichuan Province features range upon range of verdant mountains, which are home to a large number of magnificent stone forests and karst caves. Reputed as "a sea of stone and the home of karst caves", it is listed as one of Sichuan's major tourist attractions, together with the hanging coffins of the ancient Bo people. To reach Xingwen, we took a train from Chengdu to Yibin and then changed to a bus bound for Xingwen County, not far south of Yibin. Our actual destination was a town called Xingyan, where the majority of the stone forests are located, along with Tianquan (Heavenly Spring) Cave, the best scenic spot in the county. On our way to Tianquan Cave we passed a broken cliff with a giant rock tightly clamped in the gap overhead. Although we were well aware that the rock had been in that position for hundreds or even thousands of years, we still quickened our steps instinctively until we were out of its range.

From a distance we could see a ridge that resembled a crouching tiger, hence the name Crouching Tiger Ridge. Hidden in this 140-metre-high ridge is the four-storey Tianquan Cave, which is some 40-50 metres deep. The existence of this unusual cave testifies to the four intermittent upheavals of the earth's crust that have taken place here in the past three million years.

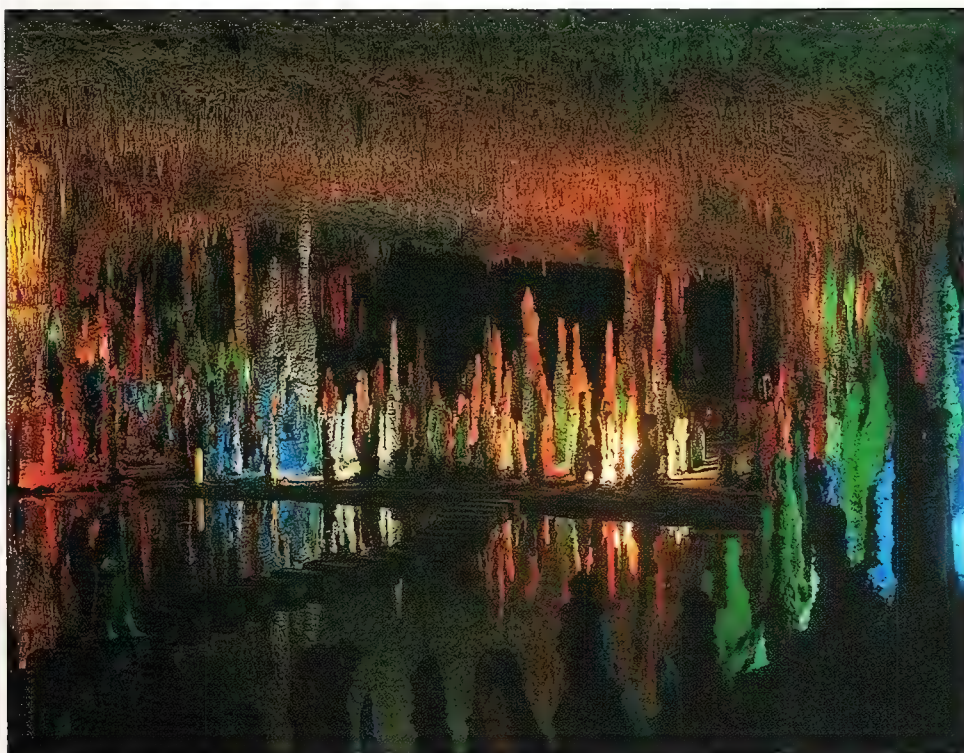
We decided to visit the seven caves on the third storey. Dating back to 400,000-600,000 years ago, they were 40 metres high and 20 metres wide on average, with a total area of 80,000 square metres. We came upon the entrance to Tianquan Cave by a roadside at Crouching Tiger Ridge. Stepping inside, we saw eagles circling round the overhanging stalactites, which stood some 100 metres from the ground. After passing about 10,000 of these rockworks, our path was suddenly blocked by a deep valley and a pool of limpid water next to it. Skirting the pool and crossing a ridge, we came to another cave named Fairies in a Stone Forest.

This cave was a dazzling world of colour formed by the stalactites that hung down from the ceiling of the cave, each as sharp as a shark's tooth. Some reached from the ceiling to the ground and stood like stone trees, so big that it took four to five people to get their arms round them.

Lit up by coloured lights, there were stalactites that looked like tree branches full of



*A huge stone pillar stands looming by a roadside
(by Feng Xiaowei).*



*A colourful world of red, purple and green is reflected in this still pool
(by Yang Xiaolin & Feng Xiaowei).*



The strangely shaped rocks on this slope resemble surging waves (by Yang Xiaolin).

blooming flowers, and others that resembled gold-coloured plants. Breathing in the fresh air of the cave and enjoying the beautiful colours reflected in the pool, we felt as if we were roaming through a small botanical garden in a waterside village in southern China.

Each of the seven halls in Tianquan Cave has its own distinctive features. For example, in one of the halls named "Unique Flowers in a Sea of Rocks", we found flower-like clusters of stalactites in different shapes. In the hall named "Flowing Jade in a Flood of Light", we were surprised to see streams as tiny as silver threads pouring down the cave walls, which gave off a spray that created a mysterious atmosphere.

A short distance from the exit at the back of the cave we stopped short: The terrain ahead took a sudden drop and formed a colossal depression, 650 metres in diameter and about 200 metres deep, locally known as the Big Funnel.

We walked round the Big Funnel and found that the steep walls, which were a grey colour mingled with black and yellow, were about 100 metres high. The tops of the walls were covered with trailing plants and grass while at the bottom of the depression, the ground sloped down about 200 metres to a jumble of earth and stones. We climbed down a zigzagging path at the edge of the cliff, occasionally coming upon a flat field or sheep and cattle herders.

The boundless sky overhead became smaller and smaller as we spiralled downwards, finally dwindling to a small blue circle by the time we reached the bottom. We shouted at the top of our lungs and heard the echoes of our voices reverberating round the stone walls.

Dating back to over one million years, this Big Funnel was originally covered by a thin stratum of rock. Later, unable to withstand the pressure from above during a crustal movement, the rock stratum caved in. In fact, according to studies, all the limestone forests and karst caves in Xingwen were formed during an orogenic movement over 70 million years ago. The original limestone deposit, which was several hundred metres thick, was first folded into mountains and then reformed by the flow of water into what it is today, over a period of hundreds of thousands of years.

Translated by K.V. Ku





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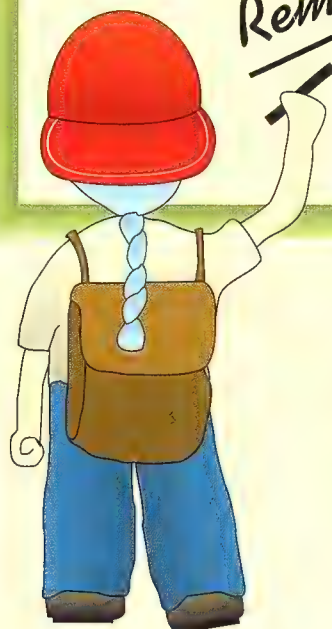
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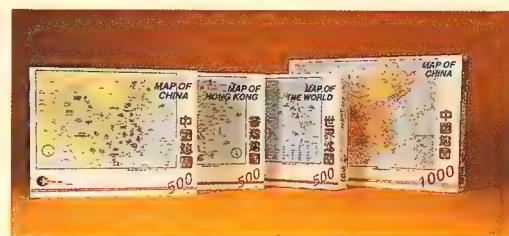
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Clouds and Moon Over the Qinghai- Tibet Plateau

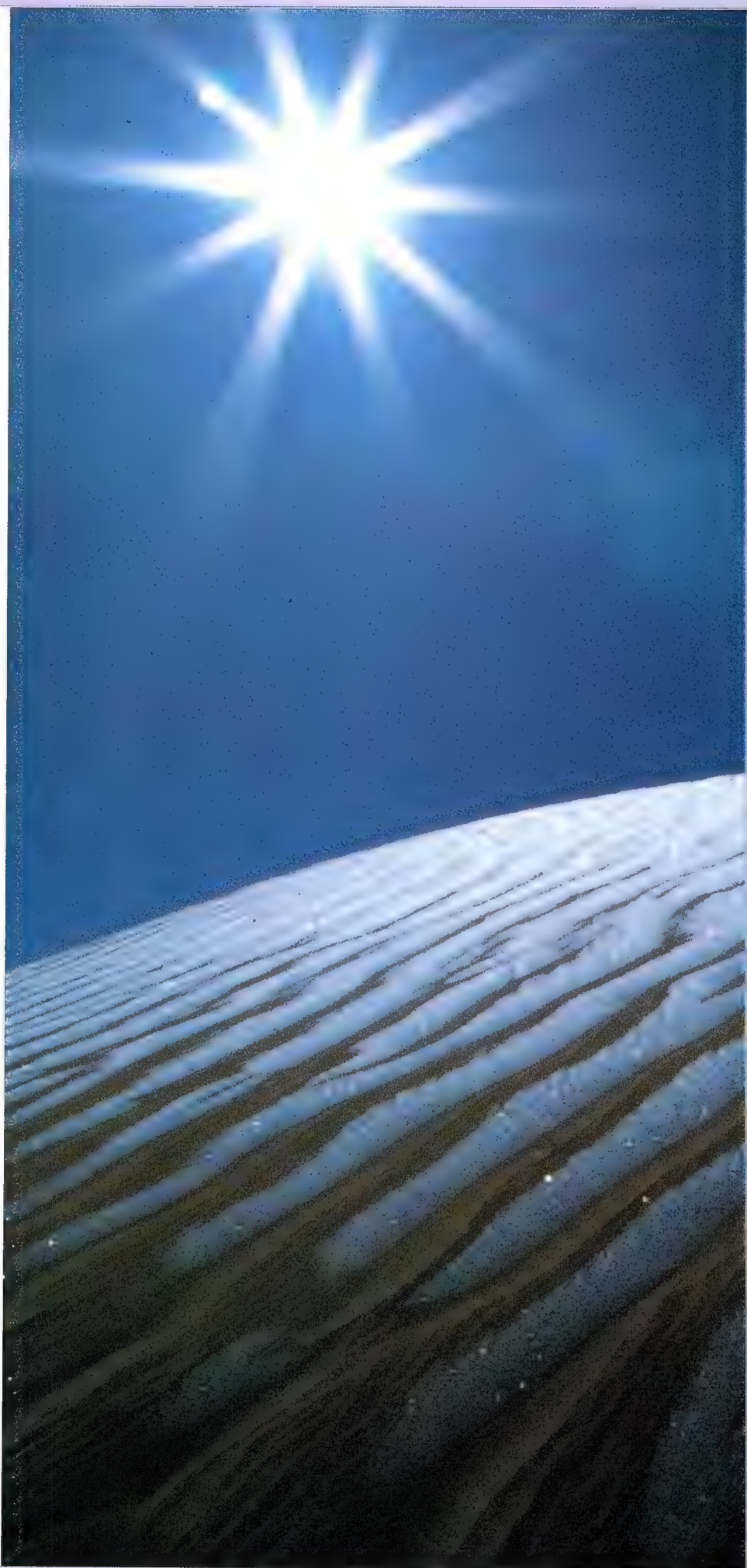
PHOTOGRAPHER:
WONG CHUNG FAI
TEXT BY TIAN FU

Last autumn, photographer Wong Chung Fai and two friends started a long journey from Chengdu in a cross-country vehicle. They travelled through Hongyuan and Aba counties in Sichuan Province's Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, Gansu Province's Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and Lanzhou to reach Xining, capital of Qinghai Province, where they began to follow the Qinghai-Tibet Highway and rolled all the way to Lhasa. The thin, oxygen-deficient air on the plateau made their travel very difficult. In the sparsely populated areas, they often had to eat and sleep in the open. But the magnificent scenery, untouched by man, and the rich, undiluted, late-autumn atmosphere along the way made them forget all the difficulties and hardships as they immersed themselves, body and soul, in the majestic beauty of nature. 

Translated by Tang Bowen

Snow on Sand Dunes

They camped in the wilderness of Qaidam Basin in Qinghai on night. Awakened by the sound of wind the following morning, they were surprised to find that the snow that fell overnight had outlined a beautiful pattern on the sand dunes. The deep blue sky in this photograph presents a sharp contrast to the yellow sand dunes and white snow, as a dazzling sun freely sheds its rays in the totally unpolluted air.







▲ Sheep Beneath a Fleeting Cloud

The grassland of southern Gansu turns a golden yellow towards the end of September. This picture of a flock of sheep peacefully grazing on a distant mound is a common sight on the plateau. What makes it different and admirable is the cloud that floats across the blue sky. It looks as if a fresh breeze has unfurled the white wool of a thousand sheep and is scattering it in the sky.





▲ The Setting Sun Over Qiangtang

Qiangtang Plateau in northern Tibet is known as the Snowy Region, where there are not many days in all four seasons of the year when snow does not fall. After a heavy fall, the lofty mountains of Qiangtang were snow-capped, but the snow in the lower places soon melted, revealing the golden autumn grass underneath. This photograph was taken when the setting sun was shining through an opening in the clouds on the snowy peaks and grassland below and dyeing everything an orange hue. The grassland looks more brilliant against the dark clouds that still linger in the sky.

◀ "Polar Lights" on the Plateau

Not far from Lhasa, Yangbajain is a region known for its spectacular sights generated by underground heat. This photograph of sunset looks very much like a picture of polar lights. If the radiating "polar lights" are an afterglow, they are very unusual. If they are not an afterglow, what are they? On the mysterious Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one will see many unexpected or illusory sights.



Drifting Down the Mengdong River

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY LI YUEGUANG

Approaching the Waterfall Pit

In Yongshun County in the northwestern part of Hunan Province, which borders on Zhangjiajie Scenic Area, there flows an old and beautiful river — the Mengdong River.

The Mengdong River Scenic Area has a karst topography, where the limestone has been eroded by rain and water and an exotic landscape has been formed. Scientific research has revealed that about 700 million years ago, this area was covered by the sea. During the orogenic movement of the Yanshan Mountains 135 million years ago, the rise of the Himalayas also caused this area to rise, and hills and mountains were formed here. Two million years ago, a new orogenic movement made the area rise even more drastically. The age-old erosion of the limestone has produced beautiful natural scenery, with gullies, karst caverns, underground rivers and waterfalls.

Rafting Down the Sihe River

The Mengdong River is some 200 kilometres long. The new tourist attraction — rafting — is done only in its 50-kilometre upper section — the Sihe River, which flows through virgin forests. The raft travels at a speed of 12.5 kilometres an hour, passing

through more than 200 rapids and shoals. It is a unique way to sightsee and explore.

Starting from the county town of Yongshun, a 30-minute bus ride crossing mountain after mountain took us to the old capital of the king of chieftains. Laosi City was built in 1135, during the Southern Song Dynasty, by Peng Fushi, the 10th king of chieftains. It was therefore duly called Fushi City. There were 23 kings here for nearly 600 years from then to 1729, when the hereditary local chieftains were replaced by non-hereditary appointees from the central government. Now-adays the natural beauty is still there, and the ruins of streets and palaces remind visitors of its prosperity in ancient times. The ancient temple standing by the river is now a draw for tourists who are interested in history.

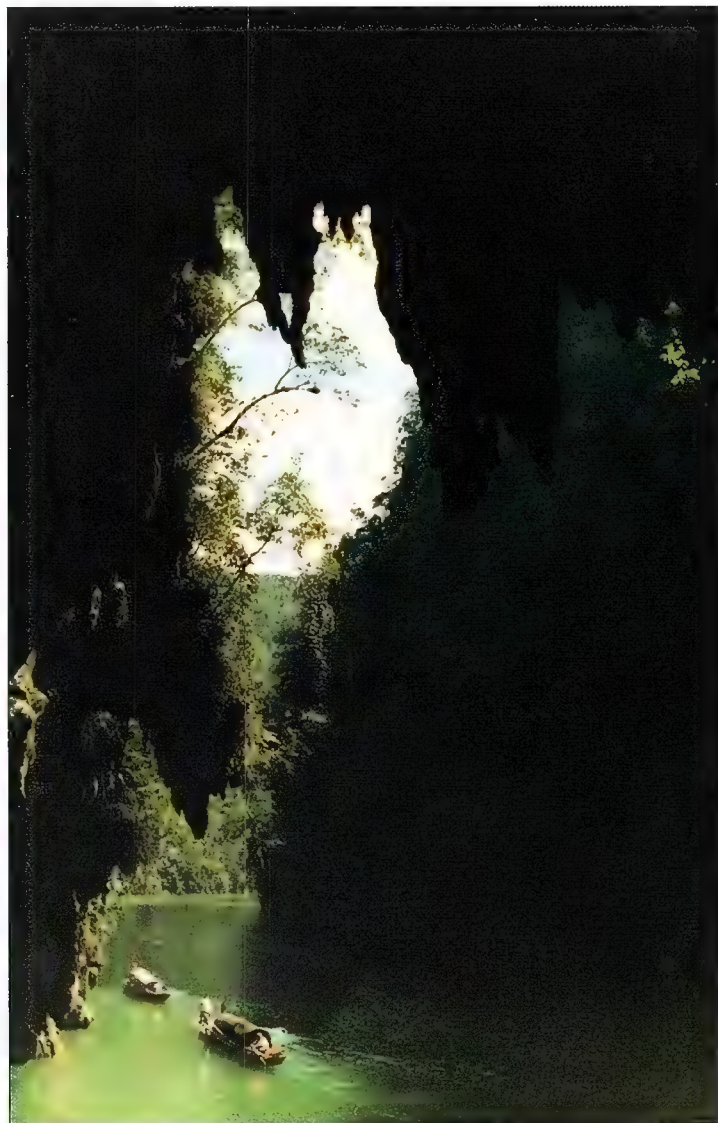
At about 10 a.m. we put on life jackets and boarded the rubber rafts to journey down the Sihe River. After passing through several mild rapids, we entered a calm section of the river, where on both banks were jagged rocks covered with colourful broadleaf trees, bushes, bamboo groves



Tujia girls in a half-suspended house in a Tujia village



Specially made rubber rafts are ready for the trip (by Huang He).



Water flows gently in the Shewang (King of Snakes) Gorge.

and liver mosses. Waterfalls poured down to the green slope and the occasional glitters made us aware of the movement of water. Sometimes there came the chirping of birds and insects, which made the place seem even more quiet and secluded. Here we were in the Hani Palace. According to legend, Hani was the beloved daughter of Kedong Maoren, bodyguard of a king of chieftains. Maoren built this palace, where he taught his daughter to recite poems and to paint.

Nietu — A Fairyland

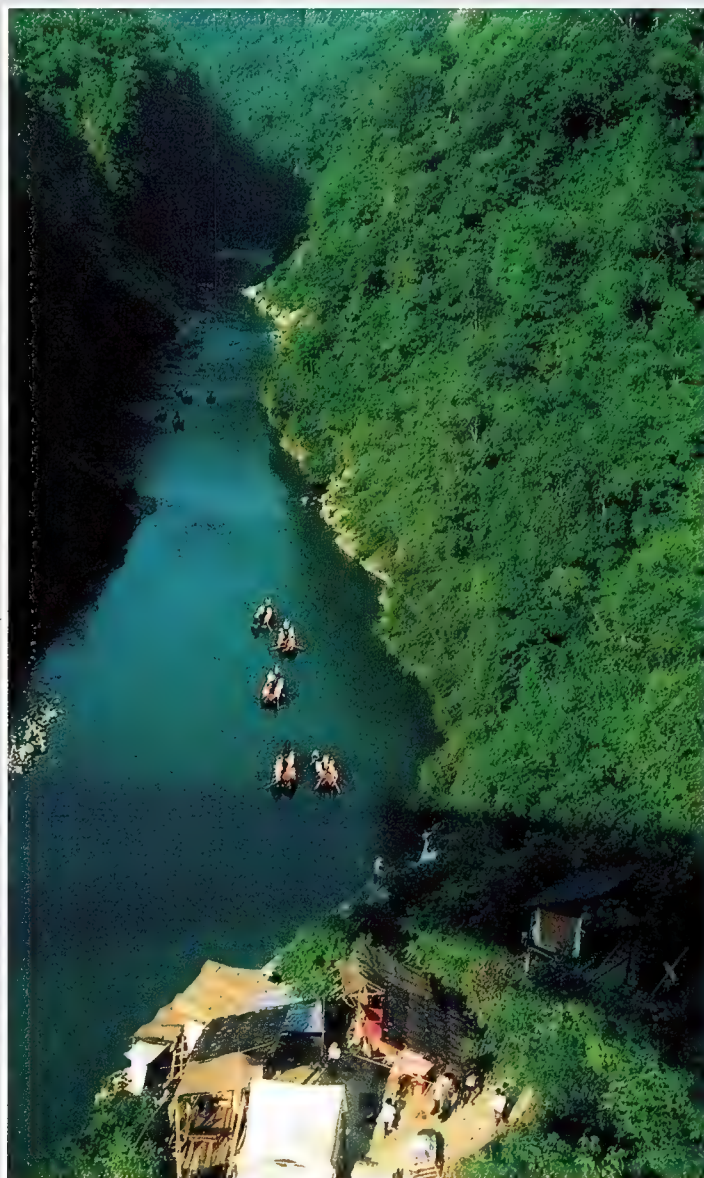
Leaving the Hani Palace, we continued our journey and drifted past landmarks such as Three-Leg Rock, Thunder God's Mouth, Waterfall Pit and Dreaming Gorge. Our general impression of the 120 shoals, five passes and 10 scenic spots is that the further you go, the shoals become rapider, the gorge narrower, the scenery more beautiful and the passes more dangerous.

The most peaceful place is Nietu. As soon as we entered the gorge, we were caressed by a gentle breeze. Raising our heads, we saw tall trees on towering peaks flanking the river and white clouds floating in the valley. A roaring waterfall gushed down to a deep green pool, into which tiny streams flowed. The most attractive thing are two rocks in the pool, which lie there like small boats in the blue waves.

In the Tujia language, Nietu means a fairyland. Once, an immortal came here and carved on the cliff a poem of 28 characters, promising that a golden boat would be given to whoever could decode the characters and understand the poem. The poem aroused the interest of tens of thousands of people but none succeeded in decoding it. One day King Nulicaba passed here by boat. He got out and read the poem. When he had decoded 27 characters, a golden boat suddenly emerged from the pool. If the last character was decoded, the boat would be his. Thinking of this, Nulicaba was much delighted. Unfortunately, he couldn't work out the last character, and the golden boat was gradually sailing away and sinking back to where it came from. Seeing that the treasure was going to melt away, the angry Nulicaba drew his sword and cut the boat into two parts, which then turned into the two rocks.

Although Nietu was a fairyland, we could not stay any longer there, because the local people say that "life is not guaranteed until you have passed

through the Shoal of Hell", and we had to get through this shoal before 3 p.m.



A group of rubber rafts drift down the river (by Huang He).



Fishermen live off the Mengdong River.

We were drifting towards a cliff in front of us when there suddenly appeared an opening which the irresistible river flowed through, washing against the rocks.

The boatman cried out: "Hold on!" and the boat was dashing among billows of water. Our boat was rising and falling on the waves, now at the peak and now at the bottom. Feeling helpless, we closed our eyes, gritted our teeth and trusted to luck. For the whole 300 metres of the Shoal of Hell, the boat was at the mercy of the waves. I didn't know whether my fellow companions were still with me or if the helmsman was still in the stern of the boat.

Story About Turning-Round Gorge

Having gone through the shoal, we got off the boat and took a rest on a sandbank. Although we were limp, we were extremely excited and all felt that the rafting was a unique experience in our lives.

I asked the boatman whether there were any dangerous shoals in the rest of the journey, and he replied: "There are still 55 shoals, and that should be enough for you. We still have to go through several rapids, including Cutting Open Fish's Belly, Three Cannons, and Thunder God Rock."

There is a legend about the Turning-Round Gorge. The ancient temple in Laos City was said to be built by Lu Ban, a master carpenter. On the altar in this temple there was a copy of the True Scriptures of the Emperor. It was one of only three-and-a-half copies. Once, some infamous bandits stole the true scriptures from this temple and fled by boat. No sooner had they gone a dozen kilometres than there was a storm, accompanied by peals of thunder, and sand flew about and stones hurtled through the air. Suddenly the cliffs collapsed to block the gorge. Frightened by this ill omen, the bandits turned round. They returned the scriptures to the temple and humbly apologized. Hence the name Turning-Round Gorge.

Tale of Dreaming Gorge

The sun had set. The night on the Sihe River was especially peaceful and charming. A thread of sky was visible above the long gorge. In the light of torches, fish played in the river and were easily caught. Attracted by the



It is customary during a Tujia wedding ceremony to carry the bride on one's back.

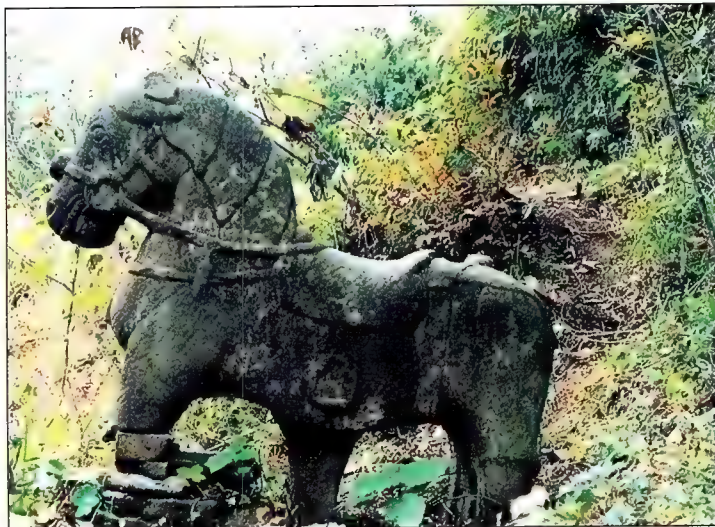


We put up by the Sihe River for the night. It is a treat to eat fish and crabs roasted on a bonfire.

light, many fat crabs vied with each other in crawling onto the sand beach, then gathered round and stared at the fire.

We ate fish roasted on the fire and drank some water from the river. What a pleasure! While we were eating, the boatman told us a tale of the Dreaming Gorge that we were going to visit the next day. Long, long ago, there was a clever Tujia girl called Shanque. She was not only very beautiful but also good at singing folk songs. All the young Tujia men in the surrounding area came in a continuous stream to court her by dialogue singing. Consequently the Sihe River became a romantic river, resounding with melodious folk songs. The eldest son of a chieftain was drunk with her beauty and voice, and joined in the contest. However, just as he began to

The stone horse is a relic of Laosi City.



sing, he was rendered dumb by Shanque's endless questioning in songs. Ashamed and vexed, he soon died. To punish her, his father forced Shanque to jump from a cliff. Fortunately, an immortal came to her rescue in mid-air and carried her to a fairyland.

It was late at night. Impressed by the tale, I tossed and turned in bed, hoping that the curtain of the night would soon be raised. At daybreak, we would drift towards the Dreaming Gorge....

Translated by Chen Jiaji

Oil Tea:

A Specialty of the Dong People

PHOTOS BY
YANG CHANGYUAN
TEXT BY
SHE ZHONG

The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China is home to 11 different ethnic peoples who live in compact communities, each with their own particular customs and life style. One of these groups is the Dong, who have the tradition of always greeting guests with an unusual refreshment called oil tea.

Dong villages abound in the main ingredients used in making oil tea: glutinous rice, tea oil and tea leaves (highland Yunwu Tea, a rare species). To prepare this snack, glutinous rice is cooked, dried in the sun, and then puffed in hot oil. At the same time peanuts or soybeans are also processed in the same way. Next, the tea leaves are fried in a wok and an appropriate quantity of water is added. When it comes to a boil, the tea leaves are strained out and the liquid is poured into bowls that have been filled with puffed rice, deep-fried peanuts, pig's liver and glutinous rice paste. The bowls of oil tea are served with chopped green onions and green garlic leaves as garnish.

Treating guests to oil tea is one of the Dong people's most important rituals, and must be carried out according to specific rules. The hostess of the house always does the serving, while the host and guests sit around a table or cooking stove.

These Dong women treat their foreign visitors with oil tea to show their respect.



The ingredients for salty oil tea include puffed rice, peanuts, pig's liver and chopped green onions, in addition to tea leaves.

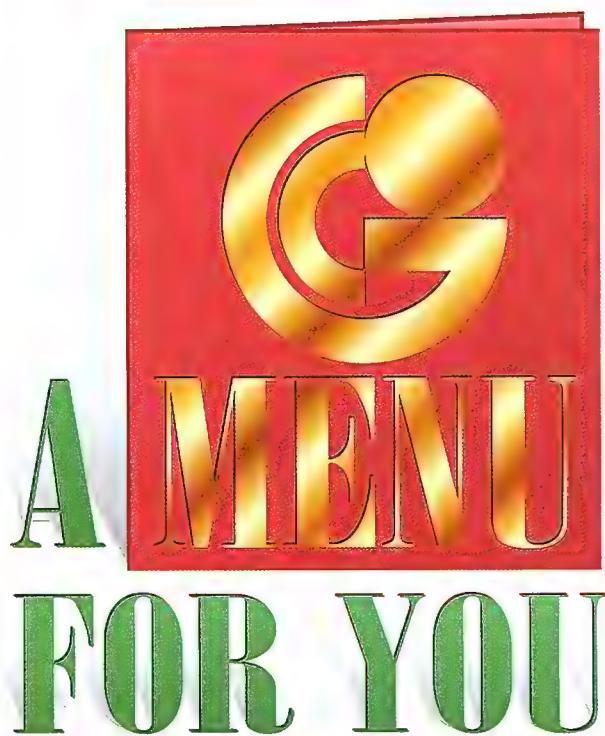
The first bowl of oil tea must be given to the eldest or most distinguished guest as a sign of respect, then the other guests and family members are served. Everyone must wait until the hostess has said "Please" before they can pick up their bowl to drink.

After you finish the first bowl, you should hand your bowl to the hostess for more. In fact, at each serving of oil tea everyone should have at least four bowls, three salty and the last one sweet. Each person is given a single chopstick which they use to eat the snack with, and when they have had enough they lay the chopstick across their bowl.

The fact that only women perform the oil tea service has to do with the Dong's traditional courtship rituals. When a young Dong man is interested in a woman, he will get together a group of friends and go at night to the girl's home. Playing the *pipa* (a plucked string instrument), the group will sing love songs back and forth with her and her companions. If the girl falls in love with one of the young men, she will set up a pot and prepare oil tea for all the participants. When the tea is ready, she gives each person a chopstick. If the man accepts it, it means that he is still single (therefore interested in her), and he must only drink an odd number of bowls of tea. After several bowls of salty tea comes the last sweet one, which implies a sweet future for the young lovers. Thus oil tea plays an important role in match-making.

Men are not allowed to take the initiative to prepare the snack themselves; they can only go ask for it at any young unmarried woman's home. However, whether they are served with the tea or not depends entirely on the woman. If no one in the group succeeds in winning the girl's heart, then they have made the trip for nothing, but still, one has to try!

Translated by K.V. Ku



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Quanzhou's Traditional Art of Puppet Making



PHOTOS BY PAUL LAU
ARTICLE BY MEGINA KWAN

The city of Quanzhou, located on the southeastern coast of Fujian, is known for many things, such as being China's largest port from the late 10th century to the middle of 14th century, and for its beautiful puppets. The two facts are actually linked together. The people of Quanzhou have always been devout followers of Buddhism, and as the city thrived in those days, so did the religion. Temples and monasteries were, and still are, a common sight, and it was their existence that caused the booming business of creating wooden and clay Buddhist deities. This in turn influenced the making of one of the city's most popular traditional art — puppets. To this day, puppet carving remains one of Quanzhou's most famous crafts.



A puppet show in Quanzhou, be it with string marionettes, stick puppets or hand puppets, is often the opening act for important occasions like weddings and religious ceremonies. Due to their widespread use and appeal, the figures themselves have gained as much popularity as the performances. The head of a puppet is usually carved from camphorwood or other fine-grained wood, although for hand puppets they are sometimes made of lacquered paper. The size of the head varies, ranging from around two inches in diameter on hand puppets, three inches on marionettes and up to the size of a human head for stick puppets.

To understand the faces of traditional Chinese puppets, we have to be familiar with Chinese opera; to learn about the faces of Quanzhou puppets, we have to know a bit about Buddhist art. So let us look at each of the arts briefly.

In China, the development of each region's puppetry is directly influenced by local opera. So, for example, just as Quanzhou's puppet shows reflect southern Fujian Opera, the puppet shows in Guangdong Province are almost miniatures of Cantonese Opera. However, a brief guide to Beijing Opera is sufficient to give a general idea of puppet theatre.

As far as characters are concerned in Chinese opera, there are four main types: *sheng* (the male roles), *dan* (the female roles), *jing* (painted faces) and *chou* (clowns). Each role is further subdivided according to the age and personality of the character. They each have their own particular type of make-up, costumes, songs, dialogue, pantomime and acting. The *jing*, who are male roles with strong, imposing characters, have their faces



A marionette in full costume



The carving of puppet heads is delicate work.



Puppet makers must be skilled in many areas.



Besides human figures, animals are also used in puppet shows.





A marionette puppet show underway

covered in heavy paint and their chins concealed by thick, long beards. In puppet shows, which are usually of a more jovial nature, clowns often play a prominent role. Some popular clowns are junior government officials, rich and greedy men, the henchmen of these people, and middle-aged female busybodies such as match-makers. Apart from the human characters, there are also animals such as lions, tigers, cats, dogs and strange beasts.

As impressive as the *jing* faces are, and as funny as the clown faces may be, perhaps those of the young female



and male roles reflect the influence of Buddhist art better.

The puppet heads of southern Fujian, where Quanzhou is located, retain certain characteristics of the figure paintings and sculptures of the Tang and Song dynasties, when Buddhist art flourished. One example is that the ladies, as well as some young men, are endowed with finely-wrought features: smooth, round cheeks, slim eyebrows, and long, slanted slits of eyes. Most puppets have long and fleshy ears, just like those of the local Buddhist figures.

The fact is that most puppet makers in southern Fujian are first and foremost sculptors of Buddhist deities. Quite a few made names for themselves through their puppet heads. The best examples of carved puppets feature delicate woodwork and vivid faces similar to Tang and Song figures, especially the females.

Some of the puppets have movable eyes, jaws and even eyebrows, and can perform dramatic acts like coughing out blood or blowing smoke.

The repertoire of a Quanzhou puppet show also follows that used in the local opera. It is said that a top puppet theatre should be able to perform a show called *Mu Lian Saves His Mother*. This is a colossal piece, composed of 16 episodes which have to be performed over four successive days. A complete performance actually includes two more pieces and demands seven days to stage.

The audience, especially farming people, seem to especially love puppet shows whose main themes promote such traditional values as filial piety, general goodness and the belief that there are watchful gods to punish any wrongdoers. The story also features a large number of characters, many twists and turns and rather difficult fighting actions. It is believed in Quanzhou that one is



Puppet shows tend to be more humorous than operas, and feature various types of "clowns".




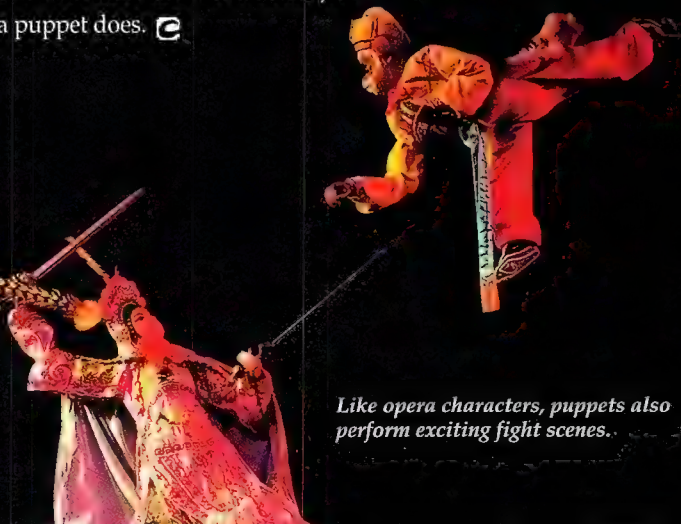
Sometimes a combination of stick and hand puppets are used in the same show.

considered a master of the art only if one can stage the entire show.

Like any other traditional art, to become proficient in puppetry one has to learn from a master. Apart from the usual manoeuvring of strings, sticks and gloves, a puppeteer has to also have strong arms. A usual Chinese stick puppet, the largest of the three kinds, can weigh as much as four kilograms after it is clothed in full costume and headpiece. The artist has to be able to lift one or both arms for long periods, supporting the weight steadily and in whatever manner is required. According to the written words of a noted stick puppeteer, "the initial preparation for doing any manoeuvres will involve lifting bricks and carrying a bowl of water on your shoulder while operating the puppets, until you are able to do your acts without spilling the water".

A puppeteer should also be able to do the voices of any puppets he is using, even though that can be handled by other actors. That means a Quanzhou puppeteer has to know Southern Fujian Opera quite well — he has to do the dialogue, the singing, the gestures and the actions of the characters he is portraying. Traditionally, an apprentice puppeteer has had to learn to play any musical instruments used as accompaniment, including various traditional Chinese stringed, wind and percussion instruments such as drums and gongs. Recently, people have started to use Western instruments such as saxophones as well. An all-round puppeteer is therefore also a Chinese opera performer and musician.

In Quanzhou, a puppet theatre is usually run by a veteran artist and actually named after him. A well-known company is invariably managed by a puppeteer who excels in both puppetry and opera. The seasoned audiences in Quanzhou expect to see this artist perform if they attend his shows, thus he will actually be exposed from his normally concealed position so the audience can see him in action. The relationship between local opera and the puppet theatre of a certain place is so close that there is often a mutual influence. In southern Fujian, some of the acts that originated in the puppet theatre have been adapted for local opera performances, which even feature a clown role called the "puppet clown". This character imitates the movements of a puppet: The actor shifts his upper body around a bit before he sits down on a chair, just like a marionette being steadied as its upper part is lowered onto a seat; and the actor flops down on the floor as if he is dead, just like a puppet does. 



Like opera characters, puppets also perform exciting fight scenes.

The Magic of a Great Taiji Master

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIA QI

Zhang Heng, a native of Qumo Township in Hebei Province's Yongnian County, started learning taijiquan (Chinese shadow-boxing) when he was only nine years old. He gradually learned the ropes by apprenticing himself to a number of famous masters and drawing on their experience. By combining the emphasis in taijiquan of cleansing one's thoughts and cultivating one's moral character with such qigong techniques as jingluo (transmitting qi or vital energy through the channels of the human body), daoyin (physical and breathing exercises combined with auto-massage) and tuna (deep inhaling and exhaling practices aimed at mental self-control), he initiated a new style and became a qigong master in his own right. In 1984, CCTV (China Central Television Station) propelled him to instant national fame by televising live his incredible qigong techniques. His school of taijiquan thus became the flavour of the month.

When representatives from 16 countries gathered in Yongnian County for the First International Taijiquan Conference on October 25, 1991, Master Zhang read a paper entitled "On the Salient Features of Taijiquan Developed by Yang Banhou". In this article he delineated the supplementary and interactive relationship between taijiquan and qigong. He believes that the word "taiji" or "grand ultimate" is synonymous with "qi" or "vital energy" and that taijiquan is the best physical exercise for those wishing to stay healthy and young. His opinions caused a stir among masters and scholars of the science of taijiquan.

During that conference, he held a short qigong training class in Handan and treated a number of patients by placing them under the sphere of qi that emitted from his own body. One of them was a patient with chronic leg pain and an eye disease who had responded poorly to medical treatment. By using the aforementioned method, Zhang cured the patient after only four sessions.

In 1991, Zhang Heng was rushed to a hospital immediately after finishing a demonstration of his skills in Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province. At the hospital he was brought to a woman in her 50s who had been in a coma for 12 days after attempting

to hang herself, a suicide attempt caused by menopausal trauma. She was kept alive by blood transfusions and oxygen therapy, but was unable to regain consciousness; she was fast losing body temperature, her pulse was growing weaker and weaker and her pupils gradually dilating. The doctors had told family members to arrange for her funeral.

Zhang immediately started work. Summoning what is called "His Reverent Hui Yuan's Magic Power" from inside his own body, he walked around the sick-bed a few times, and then turned both his hands, which had now turned crimson, up and down while moving them this way and that over the woman's body. Gradually her pupils returned to normal and her body temperature started to rise. In merely four hours the master's power produced positive results. Twelve days later the patient regained consciousness.

Then there was the worker who had become paralyzed from the waist down after breaking his pelvis and spraining both ankles. In the hospital he was advised to take an eight-week rest before traction treatment could begin. Under the impact of Master Zhang's qi, the patient was up and about in only 20 minutes, to the great surprise of the doctors.

Another patient he treated was an old woman who had a cerebral haemorrhage in 1987. She had seen a host of doctors of both traditional and Western medicine and taken many different drugs, but to no avail. She could not attend to her daily life, and suffered from a speech disorder, a twisted mouth and right lateral paralysis. When Master Zhang was brought in, he stood two metres away from her and started manoeuvring his body energy. As if by magic the patient's paralyzed right leg rose and swung to the movement of Zhang's hands, and her tongue started curling and uncurling. Using his fingers, the master touched a number of acupressure points on her body, and she regained her speech. Then he helped her make two steps; unaccountably, she walked another dozen metres down the hall by herself.

These are merely a few examples. As a matter of fact, Zhang Heng has cured thou-



Zhang Heng is a famous master of qigong, who started learning taijiquan when he was nine years old.

sands of patients over the years. Indifferent to fortune and fame, he had practised his skill in seclusion for 22 years until 1987, when he was instructed by his master, Mr. Ran Dexi, to leave his mountain abode and make his medical skills available to the public. Since then he has built up a huge reputation for his highly effective curative skills.

At the Second National Symposium on Using Qigong in the Treatment of Cardiovascular Diseases and Tumours, held in October 1990, he received a certificate after successfully curing a patient of a bone tumour on the spot.

At a national symposium on using *qigong* for the prevention of aging and the treatment of common diseases among middle-aged and elderly people, he caused a sensation after making his report on treating 75 cases of cerebrovascular hemiplegia by using His Reverent Hui Yuan's technique of integrating point-touching with the essential energy emitted from the body of *qigong* master.

Zhang Heng is now on the staff of the Song and Dance Ensemble of the General Political Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. As a national-class *qigong*



Zhang Heng treats a patient at a public demonstration, by emitting qi from his own body.

master, he works concurrently as a guest researcher with the World Medical Qigong Society, the Chinese Qigong Science Research Association and the Chinese Centre for the Study of Information-Sensing in Human Bodies. He is also president of the Qigong and Taijiquan Society of Yongnian County.

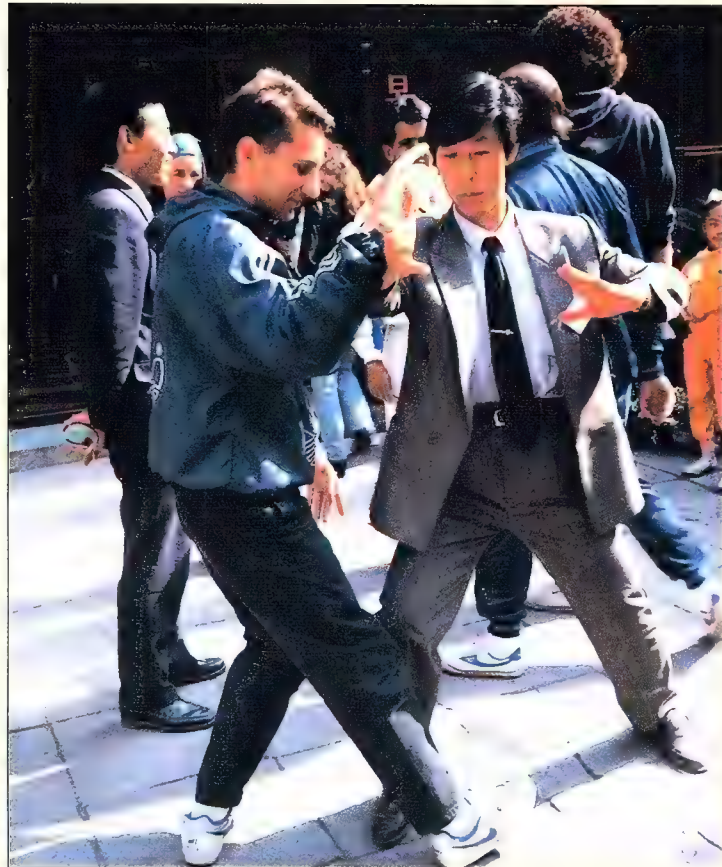
Apart from making lecture tours and treating patients, he has also entertained the public with such *qigong*-related stunts as smashing a stone tablet with his head, letting a heavy-duty truck roll over his body, and "slipping

out of a straitjacket like a cicada sloughing its skin". His demonstration sessions in Beijing, Hangzhou, Changsha, Tianjin and other cities have been huge successes, and his *qigong* therapy, remote diagnosis, bodily sensing and hypnotizing skills are at once magical and believable.

To this day *qigong* remains a highly controversial topic. One thing about it is beyond doubt: It helps invigorate macrophages in the human body and is highly catalytic in the gene-transfer of ailing or enfeebled cells. Many of these flawed cells are characterized by lower bio-electricity than normal cells. The external energy

emitted by a *qigong* master serves to replenish these cells' bio-electricity and return them to normal. Herein lies the secret of the medical effect of *qigong*, a secret that has long been confirmed by scientists. His Reverent Hui Yuan's method has its origin in traditional Chinese medicine; easily manoeuvrable and convenient to perform, it works effectively on men and women of all ages without causing any side-effects.

Translated by Ling Yuan



The master practises taijiquan with foreign visitors who come to learn from him out of respect for his skills.



Zhang believes that taijiquan is the best physical exercise for those wishing to strengthen themselves.

Suzhou Taohuawu New Year Pictures

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN • TEXT BY ZHOU RENDE



Taohuawu woodblock New Year pictures from Suzhou, in Jiangsu Province, are representative of this kind of work in southern China. First appearing in the late Ming Dynasty, this type of picture flourished during the reigns of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) and Emperor Jiaqing (1796-1820) of the Qing Dynasty. In those days, Suzhou was the main production centre of New Year pictures in southern China, the most famous being the Gusu type. After the mid-Qing Dynasty, most of Suzhou's New Year picture stores and workshops clustered in the Taohuawu area in the northwestern part of the city, hence the name Taohuawu New Year picture.

With a rich variety of subject matter, these pictures portray deities, door gods, draught animals, lan-

tern pictures and series pictures from legends and operas. Taohuawu New Year pictures have evolved from ancient Chinese door paintings, pictures of gods and genre paintings, artistically influenced by traditional Chinese paintings, murals, folk scroll paintings and Qing-dynasty woodblock illustrations. They have also assimilated the techniques of Western perspective and copperplate etching. As a result, Taohuawu New Year pictures are imbued with strong compositions, bold and complicated lines, bright colours and a light-hearted decorative style.



Two "He" Immortals

In this picture, the two immortals, one carrying a lotus ("he" in Chinese) and the other a case (also pronounced "he"), are both named He, conveying the meaning of "harmony". The two immortals were the senior monks Han Shan and Shi De who lived in the Tang Dynasty (618-907). They were bosom friends, often composing poems together. Later, Emperor Yongzheng of the Qing Dynasty granted them titles posthumously as the He Saints, but they were popularly regarded as the God of Reunion and the God of Happiness.

In this picture, red and green are applied to set off the jubilant ambience and straight and vigorous lines delineate the figures.

Bala Temple

Based on a traditional opera, this picture relates how, at Zhaoxian in Jiangsu's Huai'an County, a local tyrant named Fei Degong ran riot in the area, relying on his precious sword and poisoned arrows. One day when he snatched a woman from Bala Temple and failed to press her to consent to his marriage proposal, he was about to beat her to death. Enraged by the news, Lord Shi, the governor of the county, sent a man and a woman who disguised themselves as husband and wife to purposely go past Fei's house. Not realizing it was a trap, Fei ordered his men to seize the woman and take her into his house. Seizing the opportunity, the woman stole Fei's precious sword and poisoned arrows, and, acting from inside in co-ordination with forces attacking from the outside, the man and the woman arrested Fei Degong and brought him to justice.

The picture maker gives prominence to the subject by using the rendition of opera on the stage. The images of the positive figures are robust and vigorous, a good example of the stress on the portrayal of character and martial arts in Chinese traditional operas.



Zhao Family Mansion

This picture is derived from an episode of a traditional opera based on a Chinese classic, *The Table of Lord Jigong*. The story tells of Hua Yunlong, an outlaw, running across his old acquaintance Wang Tong, a professional armed guard of merchants' caravans, while committing a robbery. A fight broke out between them and ended in the defeat of the robber. Hua Yunlong then accepted Wang Tong's advice to turn over a new leaf, and they became sworn brothers. However, for Hua, it was difficult to alter his evil nature. When he encountered the beautiful daughter of a Zhao family, he was beset by wicked thoughts. He sneaked into the Zhao family mansion at midnight, but happened upon Lei Ming and Chen Liang, two disciples of Lord Jigong, a mysterious figure with magical power. The two saved Zhao's daughter from the rascal.

The picture shows how the two heroes, after saving the lady, give chase to the intruder. With the omission of the stage setting, the simple appearance of the picture highlights even better the subject of the story.

Translated by K.V.Ku



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GM: Zhong Jingjun

182 rooms

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference and banquet hall, beauty salon, business centre, bar, shopping arcade, ballroom, sauna, bowling centre, tennis courts, gym, karaoke

Zengcheng, Guangzhou

Gualu Guest House

掛綠賓館

6 Gualu Street, Licheng, Zengcheng, Guangzhou, Guangdong 511300

Tel: 2752860 Fax: 2752860-2112

GM: Wen Zexiong

300 rooms

Facilities: Restaurant, conference rooms, recreation centre, ballroom, karaoke

Hangzhou, Zhejiang

Dragon Hotel

杭州黃龍飯店

Shuguang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 5154488 Telex: 351048 DRAGN CN

Fax: 5158090

GM: Albert Poon

Opened 21 April 1988

558 rooms and 6 suites Rates: Standard US\$110, suite US\$220

Located 14 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥ 40; railway station, Rmb ¥ 15

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, business centre, conference room, karaoke, disco, ballroom, swimming pool, billiard room, tennis courts, beauty salon, shopping arcade, massage, sauna, babysitting service, bicycle rental

Friendship Hotel Hangzhou

杭州友好飯店

53 Pinghai Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: (0571) 777888 Telex: 35068 FRISH CN

Fax: (0571) 773842

Opened 6 October 1986

224 rooms and suites Rates: Single US\$63/72, double US\$70/80, suite US\$150/300

Located in the city centre, 14 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, art gallery, beauty salon, massage, multi-function room, shopping arcade, karaoke, bar

Hangzhou International Mansion

杭州國際大廈

157 Tiyuchang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: 556224, 555724 Telex: 35029 BZIB CN

Fax: 574201

GM: Xia Yucheng

296 rooms and suites

Located 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, exhibition hall, bar, coffee shop, ballroom, karaoke, shopping arcade, gym, clinic, beauty salon, facilities for handicapped persons

Hangzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel

杭州華僑飯店

15 Hubin Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: (0571) 774401 or 774953 Telex: 35070 HOCH CN

Fax: (0571) 774978

GM: Xu Bingsheng

308 rooms and suites Rates: US\$40/45

Located in the city centre, 13 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference

room, business centre, shopping arcade, ballroom, karaoke, clinic, gym, massage, beauty salon, babysitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

Hangzhou Tower

杭州大厦

1 Wulin Square, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: 553911 Telex: 351008 HZB CN

Fax: 570062

GM: Zhou Shunnan

139 rooms and suites Rates: Double US\$36, suite US\$50/100

Located in the city centre, 12 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, shopping centre, exhibition centre, business centre, billiard room, karaoke, gym, dance hall, clinic, beauty salon, massage

Hangzhou Xihu State Hotel

杭州西湖國賓館

7 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 776889 Telex: 35004 BTHX CN

Fax: 772348

113 rooms and suites

Located 7 km from the city centre, 20 km from airport, 9 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, bar, coffee shop, disco, shopping arcade, beauty salon, cinema, massage

Hangzhou Zhijiang Hotel

杭州之江飯店

84 Moganshan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310005

Tel: 866888, 882924

Fax: 864966

Opened 28 November 1990

600 rooms and 20 suites Rates: US\$32-84

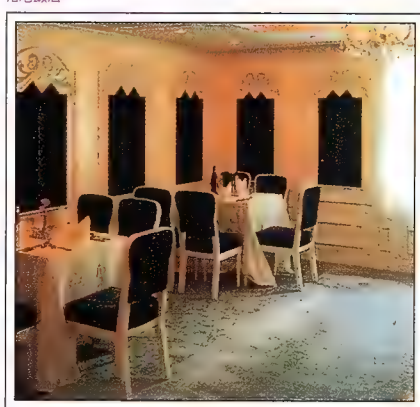
Located 20 km from airport, 12 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥25; railway station, Rmb ¥15

Facilities: Banquet halls, restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, dance hall, billiard room, function rooms, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, bar, gym, clinic, beauty salon

Huangang Hotel

花港飯店



4 Xishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 771324 Telex: 35007 HUAJG CN

Fax: 772481

GM: Zhang Xin Rong

Opened 1958

213 rooms and 5 suites Rates: US\$45-60

Located 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥45; railway station, Rmb ¥15

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, karaoke, shopping arcade, clinic, beauty salon, ballroom, gym, massage

Huajianshan Hotel

花家山賓館

12 Faxiang Lane, Xishan Road, Hangzhou,

Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 771224 Telex: 35063 HJSGN CN

Fax: 773980

GM: Fu Shui Gen

Opened 18 October 1981

196 rooms and suites

Located southwest of West Lake, 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Facilities: Shopping arcade, beauty salon, massage, conference room, health club, karaoke, multi-function hall

Shangri-La Hotel, Hangzhou

杭州香格里拉飯店

78 Beishan Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310007

Tel: 777951 Telex: 35005/6 HOTCH CN

Fax: 773545

387 rooms

Located 40 minutes from airport

Facilities: Chinese restaurant, meeting and banquet rooms, business centre, beauty salon, shopping arcade, ballroom, function rooms

Wang Hu Hotel

望湖賓館

2 Huancheng Road West, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310006

Tel: 771024, 771942 Telex: 351029 WHBG CN

Fax: (0571) 773027

Opened 17 March 1986

361 rooms and 8 suites Rates: US\$40-260

Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥40; railway station Rmb ¥15

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet halls, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, karaoke, billiard room, dance hall, nightclub

Xin Qiao Hotel, Hangzhou

杭州新橋飯店



176 Jiefang Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310001

Tel: 776688 Telex: 351028 XQH CN

Fax: 722768

Opened 28 March 1986

342 rooms and 14 suites Rates: Standard US\$60-90, suite US\$120-220

Located 12 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥25-40; railway station, Rmb ¥10-20

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon, multi-function hall, billiard room, ballroom, coffee shop, bar, massage, babysitting service, facilities for handicapped persons

Ningbo, Zhejiang

Asia Garden Hotel

亞洲華園賓館

Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010

Tel: 7366888 Telex: 37020 AGHZJ CN

Fax: 7361238/7366554

GM: Percy Cheng

Opened 18 July 1987

172 rooms and 18 suites Rates: Standard

US\$55-100, suite US\$145-450

Located 15 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥50; railway station, Rmb ¥20

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, conference rooms, business centre, disco, coffee shop, health club, shopping arcade, multi-function hall, karaoke, beauty salon, bar

Golden Dragon Hotel

寧波金龍飯店

Nanzhan (Southern Railway Station) Square, Ningbo,

Zhejiang 315010

Tel: (0574) 318888 (Switchboard)

Fax: (0574) 312288

Opened 24 October 1991

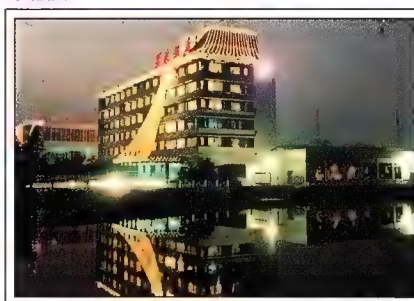
304 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US\$55, suite US\$108-188

Located 12 km from airport, 100 m from railway station

Facilities: 14 large and small restaurants, revolving restaurant, meeting rooms, bar, multi-function hall, ballroom, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, coffee shop, karaoke, swimming pool

Ningbo Hotel

寧波飯店



65 Mayuan Road, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010

Tel: 0574-7366334 Telex: 37019 NBHOT CN

Fax: 0574-366301

GM: Yang Guo Liang

Opened 26 May 1983

106 rooms and 10 suites Rates: Standard US\$38-65, suite US\$92-205

Located 12 km from airport, 550 m from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, business centre, multi-function hall, bar, beauty salon, ballroom, karaoke, massage, disco, shopping arcade

Ningbo Hua Qiao Hotel

寧波華僑飯店

130 Liuting Street, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315010

Tel: 0574-7363175 Telex: 37001 NPHCM CN

Fax: 0574-364790

GM: Chen Furong

130 rooms Rates: Single US\$26-45, standard US\$32, double US\$26-36, suite US\$70-76

Located in the city centre near Moon Lake and

Tianyue Pavilion

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, meeting rooms, business centre, disco, bar, billiard room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Yonggang Hotel

甬港飯店

105 Baizhang Road East, Ningbo, Zhejiang 315040

Tel: 7334621 Fax: (0574)-333626

GM: Gong Quan

Opened 1982

184 rooms and suites

Located 15 km from airport, 5.5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke, bar, billiard room, beauty salon, massage, clinic, coffee shop

Wenzhou, Zhejiang

Chaoyang Mountain Villa Hotel

朝陽山莊

Xianglingtou, Yandang Mountain, Wenzhou, Zhejiang

325614

Tel: (05872) 524206 Fax: (05872) 524206

GM: Lin Jianshe

Opened 3 January 1987

105 rooms Rates: Standard US\$35, VIP US\$200

Located 50 km from the airport

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, karaoke, disco, bar, shopping arcade, beauty salon, swimming pool, clinic, billiard room, dance hall, facilities for handicapped persons, babysitting service

Wenzhou Overseas Chinese Hotel

溫州華僑飯店

17 Xinh Street, Wenzhou, Zhejiang 325000

Tel: (0577) 822391 Fax: (0577) 29656

187 rooms

Located 20 km from airport

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, disco, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, gym, billiard room, facilities for handicapped persons, babysitting service

Average Climatic Conditions in Guangdong and Zhejiang Provinces

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Guangdong	Guangzhou	Temperature (°C)	13.3	14.4	17.9	21.9	25.6	27.2	28.4	28.1	26.9	23.7	19.4	15.2
		Rainfall (mm)	36.9	54.5	80.7	175.0	293.8	287.8	212.7	232.5	189.3	69.2	37.0	24.7
Zhejiang	Hangzhou	Temperature (°C)	3.8	5.1	9.3	15.4	20.2	24.3	28.6	28.0	23.3	17.7	12.1	6.3
		Rainfall (mm)	62.2	88.7	114.1	130.4	179.9	196.2	126.5	136.5	177.6	77.9	54.7	54.0
	Ningbo	Temperature (°C)	4.2	5.4	9.2	14.9	19.5	23.7	28.1	27.7	23.8	18.1	12.6	7.0
		Rainfall (mm)	58.8	79.1	97.9	116.5	153.4	190.8	129.3	142.9	207.6	84.7	59.9	53.9

Train Schedules Beijing - Zhengzhou - Wuchang - Guangzhou

257 F.T.	253 F.T.	251 F.T.	245 F.T.	243 F.T.	37 Exp.	29 Exp.	15 Exp.	1 Exp.	Train Station	No.	2 Exp.	16 Exp.	30 Exp.	38 Exp.	244 F.T.	246 F.T.	252 F.T.	254 F.T.	258 F.T.
		23:55	12:59		18:14	22:30	00:30	09:01	Beijing		20:22	04:30	06:00	13:21		04:00	06:45		
	11:44	—	—		—	—	—	—	Beijing South		—	—	—	—		—	—	03:20	
	16:04	04:54	17:41		21:54	01:57	03:57	12:28	Shijiazhuang		17:02	01:14	02:44	09:48		00:04	02:09	23:18	
	19:23	08:00	21:01		00:41	—	—	15:27	Anyang		14:02	—	—	07:00		20:45	22:50	19:48	
20:54	22:04	10:49	23:59	14:35	03:14	06:56	08:56	18:11	Zhengzhou		11:17	20:10	21:40	04:28	05:17	17:58	19:34	16:40	08:38
02:08			04:32	19:09	07:16	10:53	12:53	22:13	Xinyang		07:09	16:10	17:40	00:24	00:48	13:03			03:38
05:43			07:53	22:47	10:31	—	—	01:26	Hankou		03:48	—	—	21:03	20:48	09:32			23:56
06:24			08:16	23:22	10:54	14:21	16:21	02:01	Wuchang		03:09	12:29	13:59	20:23	19:51	08:53			23:12
10:30				03:14			19:33	05:15	Yueyang		23:58	09:19			16:03				19:29
12:50				05:45		19:27	21:41	07:13	Changsha		21:50	07:15	08:59		13:45				17:05
				09:00		22:21	00:35		Hengyang			04:19	06:03		10:20				
				14:36		03:20	05:36		Shaoguan			23:21	01:07		04:40				
						08:45			Guangzhou			20:00	21:46		00:43				

Exp.— Express F.T.— Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules Shanghai/Hangzhou — Guangzhou

209 F.T.	49 Exp.	Train Station	No.	50 Exp.	210 F.T.
	10:00	Shanghai		20:30	
09:20	—	Hangzhou		—	20:21
—	13:16	Hangzhou East		17:28	—
13:30	16:36	Jinhua		14:07	15:35
18:18	20:11	Shangyao		10:10	11:12
20:55	22:12	Yingtian		08:07	08:33
23:11	00:10	Xiangtang West		06:05	05:30
04:55	04:31	Pingxiang		01:34	00:11
07:14	06:20	Zhuzhou		23:49	22:16
09:32	08:25	Hengyang		21:40	19:55
13:31	12:03	Pingshi		18:01	15:57
15:10	13:36	Shaoguan		16:29	14:20
18:55	16:46	Guangzhou		13:06	10:20

Train Schedules Beijing — Shanghai — Hangzhou

119 F.T.	45 Exp.	Train Station	No.	46 Exp.	120 F.T.
17:14	10:40	Beijing		05:45	11:44
19:31	12:40	Tianjin West		04:04	09:52
22:54	—	Dezhou		—	06:20
01:04	17:29	Jinan South		23:27	04:21
06:04	21:52	Xuzhou		19:11	23:25
08:48	00:20	Bengbu		16:47	20:40
12:27	03:01	Nanjing		14:47	17:45
13:25	—	Zhenjiang		—	16:36
15:11	05:33	Wuxi		11:47	14:55
15:50	—	Suzhou		—	14:16
17:05	07:29	Shanghai West		10:10	13:01
20:20	—	Hangzhou		—	09:25
	10:24	Hangzhou East		06:45	

Train Schedules Shanghai — Hangzhou — Ningbo

369 O.	367 O.	365 O.	363 O.	361 O.	353 O.	351 O.	Train Station	No.	352 O.	354 O.	362 O.	364 O.	366 O.	368 O.	370 O.
			13:23	02:55		08:09	Shanghai		22:33		10:59	21:53			
			—	—	21:10	—	Shanghai West		—	17:01	—	—			
			15:34	05:34	23:16	10:25	Jiaxing		20:28	14:55	08:56	19:50			
			16:06	06:06	—	10:57	Haining		—	14:18	08:09	19:15			
17:40	08:30	07:04	17:20	07:21	00:41	12:21	Hangzhou		19:04	12:50	06:38	17:40	11:40	16:41	21:31
18:16	09:08	07:46			01:20	12:59	Xiaoshan		18:12	11:55			10:59	15:56	20:45
19:10	10:03	08:28			02:07	13:42	Shaoxing		17:21	11:16			09:37	15:06	20:00
20:37	11:15	10:07			03:33	14:57	Yuyao		15:46	09:30			08:20	13:47	18:40
21:50	12:20	11:08			04:42	16:16	Ningbo		14:45	08:25			07:10	12:50	17:30

O.— Ordinary passenger train



Flowers ready for the New Year's Eve Flower Fair (by Lin Xing)

Flowers and Food in Guangzhou

Although Guangzhou is one of the most modern and westernized cities in China, it is also an extremely old city, and consequently boasts a wealth of traditional Chinese culture. Many people travel to Guangzhou for business, but there is a much wider range of things to do and see in this vibrant and fascinating city than many people imagine.

Because of Guangzhou's location, fractionally below the Tropic of Cancer, its climate is warm and tropical, and is perfect for cultivating flowers. The people of Guangzhou are famous throughout China for their love of flowers, and their prowess at growing them. There are several major flower festivals in Guangzhou which are well worth a visit.

Colourful Festivals

The most famous festival is the New Year's Eve Flower Fair, held just before the Chinese New Year celebrations. This festival dates back to the reign of the Emperor Daoguang of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), but has become much bigger and better organized in the last 40 years.

About a week before the new year festivities, the preparations for the festival begin. Workmen erect shelves, spring-greeting arches, lights and bunting along Binjiang, Dongchuan, Jiaoyu and Fengyuan Roads. The flower growers in the suburbs

transport their plants to the area, filling the streets with the glories of spring. All of the flowers are for sale, and there is a wide variety on offer. Visitors can purchase peonies, roses, hibiscuses, begonias, pussy-willows, camellias, larkspur, peach-blossom and gladioli among others. All in bloom, the fair is a riot of colour and smell, almost overwhelming to the eye. Also on sale are spring festival pictures, calendars, antiques and other arts and crafts.

Visitors flock to the fair in huge numbers about three days before New Year's Eve, but that night itself is the most spectacular, with jostling crowds amidst the sea of flowers, and fire-crackers noisily welcoming the coming year.

In the autumn, Guangzhou holds its chrysanthemum shows, which are famed throughout the country. Chrysanthemums are a passion of the Chinese people, and the inhabitants of Guangzhou are no exception. More than 1,500 years ago, the Jin-dynasty (265-420) poet Tao Yuanming was writing of the popularity of the flower. Guangzhou has a wide variety of chrysanthemums, mainly grown from cuttings rather than seeds, as the northern Chinese varieties are. Popular types include "early yellow", "early white", "flaming dance", "Chang Ngo" and "peony" chrysanthemums. All of these flower in the autumn, unlike many flowers, and grouped together

they are a remarkable sight.

The biggest chrysanthemum shows in Guangzhou are held in Yuexiu Park, the Martyrs Memorial Park and the Cultural Park. There are a huge amount of flowers at each show, and the gardener's skills are much in evidence, with dozens of different colours and shapes on display. Definitely worth a visit.

Another Guangzhou spectacle is the Dragon Boat Festival. Celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, it is a memorial to the poet Qu Yuan, a national hero.

Qu's story goes like this: Qu was a native of Chu State during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), and was a minister in the Chu court. He was an intelligent man, patriotic and proud. He advocated an alliance with the Qi State to the east, against the warlike and aggressive Qin State to the west, but was opposed by some of the more reactionary elements of the court, and eventually exiled to the river basin of Yuanjiang and Xiangjiang in Hunan Province. When, as he had predicted, the Chu State was invaded and plundered by the troops of the Qin, he threw himself into the Miluo River and drowned. When people learned that the great poet was dead, they immediately set out in boats to search for him, paddling furiously. They also threw rice dumplings

into the river, to stop the fish eating his body. Gradually these grew into the festival we know today.

Guangzhou, situated on the Pearl River, is a very water-oriented city, and the local people are very keen on the Dragon Boat Festival. Dozens of teams from the surrounding area take part, and sometimes there are as many as 100 boats competing. The boats are huge, between 30 and 50 metres, and hold up to 80 rowers, seated in pairs. The prow of the boat is carved and painted like a dragon's head, and the stern is shaped like a tail. People flock to Guangzhou for the races, and make a terrific noise, shouting and banging drums and gongs in support of their favourite boat.

The Pearl River is the fifth longest in China, and a trip along it as it flows through Guangzhou is a very pleasant way to spend an afternoon or evening. A river trip shows the visitor a different face of the city, one not to be missed.

Some of the sights include the two magnificent bridges spanning the river, the Haizhu Bridge to the east, and the People's Bridge to the west. There is also Zhongshan University, shaded by leafy trees, quiet and serene. Shamian Island, which used to be a British and French possession, is very beautiful, with lots of old Western-style buildings, and the magnificent White Swan Hotel, one of the best in China.

Palatable Food

One of the things Guangzhou is most famous for is its food. There is an old Chinese saying, that to enjoy the best things life has to offer, one should be "born in Suzhou, live in Hangzhou, eat in Guangzhou and die in Liuzhou". Suzhou is renowned for the beauty of its women, Hangzhou for its scenery and Liuzhou for the quality of its coffins. Whether or not these are true, it is certain that the food in Guangzhou is extremely good. Cantonese

cuisine is both healthy and tasty, involving a lot of steaming, boiling and stir-frying. There are hundreds of restaurants in the city, and the visitor is spoiled for choice, from deluxe culinary palaces to street-stalls and snack-bars. The following are a few suggestions:

The Panxi Restaurant, in the west of Guangzhou, is famed for its location. Situated on the shore of Liwan Lake, it is huge, seating over 1,800 people and covering over 12,000 square metres. The restaurant is laid out like a typical southern-Chinese garden, with weeping-willow and shady banyan trees, and eating there is like sitting in a landscape painting. The restaurant is not only famous for its surroundings, but for the quality of its food. The chefs are often invited overseas to show off their skills. Dishes to look out for include deep-fried crispy crab legs, prawn slices in egg-white sauce and curried juicy chicken.

Another garden restaurant is the Beiyuan Restaurant, located at the foot of Yuexiu Hill in the north of the city. It is full of trees, flowers and bamboo groves, with ponds, rockeries and bridges, whilst the dining halls and tea-drinking chambers are models of classical Chinese elegance. Specialities of the house include chicken with Huadiao wine, shredded chicken with swallow's nest soup, crab paste with shrimp glue and twin-colour multi-layer shortbread.


In the west of the city, the Guangzhou Restaurant presents an imposing façade with its huge pillared gates, but the emphasis here is on the quality of its food. Specializing in traditional local flavours and seasonal delicacies, it is worth trying their steamed chicken in Maotai liquor and their kapok-blossom duck.

Another enormous restaurant, covering over 10,000 square metres and having 20

dining halls, is the Nanyuan Restaurant, next to Xiaogang Park in the south of the city. Again, this is a garden restaurant, with lawns, ponds, bamboo, trees and rockeries. Its specialities are examples of Chaozhou food, such as gold carp stuffed with shrimp meat, slick fish balls and crisp roast wild goose slices.

One of the oldest and most respected restaurants in Guangzhou is the Taotaoju Restaurant, established in 1885, during the Qing Dynasty. Well-known and popular with people from all over southern China, who go for its dim sum banquets, especially on a Sunday.

The Likoufu Restaurant, on Shisanhang Road in downtown Guangzhou is very good for seafood, including mandarin fish, perch, silverfish, catfish, rockfish, prawns and crab. Also, the Koufu Chicken (gourmet's luck chicken) is a delicacy of the house, not found elsewhere.

Finally, the Snake Food Restaurant is a popular place for both Chinese and Westerners looking for a taste of the Orient. Over 80 years old, and originally known as "Snake King Moon", it is the best snake restaurant in the city. The Chinese believe that snake meat is effective in curing diseases, relieving rheumatic pains and promoting blood circulation. It is also useful in the treatment of anemia and arthritis. It is also a warming food, and very popular in the winter. Whether or not it possesses those medicinal properties, it is, in fact, delicious. Famous dishes include snake breast stuffed with shelled shrimp and braised snake slices with chicken liver. There is also a medicinal wine made from snake's bile available. You can't say that Guangzhou isn't unique when it comes to food. 



Beiyuan Restaurant



Local famous dishes
(by Chan Yat Nin)



NEWS

TOURIST INFORMATION

Visa Waiver

Shenzhen, one of China's five special economic zones, has simplified entry formalities for overseas visitors. Tourists and business people may now stay for 72 hours without an entry visa. A working group has been set up to decide how to regulate and implement the new rules.

Hainan Highway Network

Hainan Province, China's largest special economic zone, has drawn up a 15-year plan for the construction of a highway network for the island. Hainan used to be a largely agricultural island, with a very poor road system, until it became China's 30th province in 1988. Highway development has become a priority for the authorities, and the regional government has set aside 3.1 billion yuan for road construction in the coming years.

The 15-year plan is designed to promote economic development, and will include a north-south expressway, and one to run from east to west. Last year, 129 kilometres of expressways were built, and over 200 kilometres of existing roads upgraded.

New Cable Car

A cable car line crossing the Yellow River has just opened in Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu Province in the northwest of China. Situated over 1,500 metres above sea level, Lanzhou is sandwiched between two mountains, with the Yellow River running through the centre of the city. The cable line, the first of its kind across the river, starts near the Zhongshan Bridge on the southern bank, and ends in a park built on Baita Mountain on the opposite bank. The line is 1,100 metres long, and crosses the river at a height of 169 metres.

CULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Buddhist Badges

China is to issue a set of gold, silver and bronze souvenir badges on Buddhist themes at the beginning of next year. The

badges, produced at Shanghai Mint, will carry the figures of Bodhisattvas on one face, and the four famous Buddhist mountains on the reverse. The four mountains are Putuo Mountain in Zhejiang Province, Wutai in Shanxi, Ermei in Sichuan and Jinhua in Anhui.

Old Beijing Landscape Park

The Old Beijing Mini Landscape Park has just opened in the northern suburbs of the capital. The park, covering over 50 hectares, brings together the architecture of Beijing during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. The park is built on a scale of 1:15, and also features a street of traditional and folk art, which includes shops, tea-houses, food and commerce of the period.

Memorial Temple

A memorial temple for the author Cao Xueqin has been finished in Beijing. Cao, author of the classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions* was originally from Suzhou in Jiangsu Province in the east of China, and the temple has been built in Suzhou style. The temple is in two parts — a memorial hall with a statue of Cao and the 12 ladies of the novel, and a garden at the rear. Covering an area of 5.5 hectares, it is located in southern Beijing's Daxing County.

Chinese Arts School

A school has opened in Beijing teaching Chinese martial arts and calligraphy. The school has regular courses open to the public, and a global correspondence course. The curriculum of the calligraphy department includes Chinese philosophy and the study of classic Chinese literature like the *Book of Change*, *Great Learning* and Sun Tzu's *Art of War*. The martial arts department teaches kung-fu and ways of keeping fit. The school hopes to attract both Chinese and foreign students.

Waxworks Palace

A new centre for sightseeing, cultural recreation and shopping has opened in Beijing. The Beijing Shisanling Waxworks Palace of Ming Dynasty is a joint Sino-Belgian project, located close to Xiguan Huandao in Changping County, on the route to the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. The waxworks palace uses detailed wax figures and modern sound, light and video techniques to reproduce the major historical events of the first 16 emperors of the Ming Dynasty.

AIRLINE UPDATES

A new civil airport has been built in Jinzhou, in Liaoning Province in the northeast of China. Since April 1993, Jinzhou City has spent over US\$9.3 million to expand the Xianlingzi Military Airport and install new equipment. The first trial flight took place in August of this year.

New China-Japan Route

Japanese aviation authorities have approved Air China's plan to operate regular flights between Beijing and Sendai in Japan. The airline plans to run twice-weekly flights between the two cities.

Alma Ata-Beijing

Beginning in September this year a non-stop flight is available between Alma Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, and Beijing. The weekly flight is operated by Khazakh Airlines.

OTHER NEWS

Natural Buddha Discovered

A huge rock resembling the Buddha has been discovered on Mount Qianshan in Liaoning Province in Northeast China. Formed by a combination of glaciation and natural weathering, the figure is over 70 metres high and 50 metres long. Its face and limbs are so accurate that they resemble a man-made sculpture. There is evidence that people prayed to it in ancient times.

Yangtse Cruises

A deluxe pleasure ship named *East King* started its inaugural sail between Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, and Chongqing in Sichuan Province last August. Furnished with an imported engine, satellite communications systems and room fittings, the first Chinese luxury liner is built to the standard of a modern hotel. Featuring 78 superior twin-bed cabins and two royal suites, it also boasts a fully equipped, 100-seat conference hall. The luxury ship covers the Three Gorges along the Yangtse River and offers short visits to some of the most renowned scenic spots en route.

Also currently sailing between Wuhan and Chongqing are two more new boats — the *Victoria I* and the *Victoria II*, operated by Victoria Cruises. The company plans to add two more ships to the fleet in 1995. The tours last four days and three nights going downstream from Chongqing, and five days and four nights going up-

NEXT I S S U E

In our next issue, we take a good look at the famous Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province. Our writers and photographers visited the mountain in both spring and autumn, and recorded its differing aspects in the different seasons. Also in Anhui we take you to Shexian County, the birthplace of Huizhou culture, famous for its ancient architecture and its marvellous calligraphic implements.

Huangshan Mountain Revisited



Shexian: Birthplace of Huizhou Culture



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